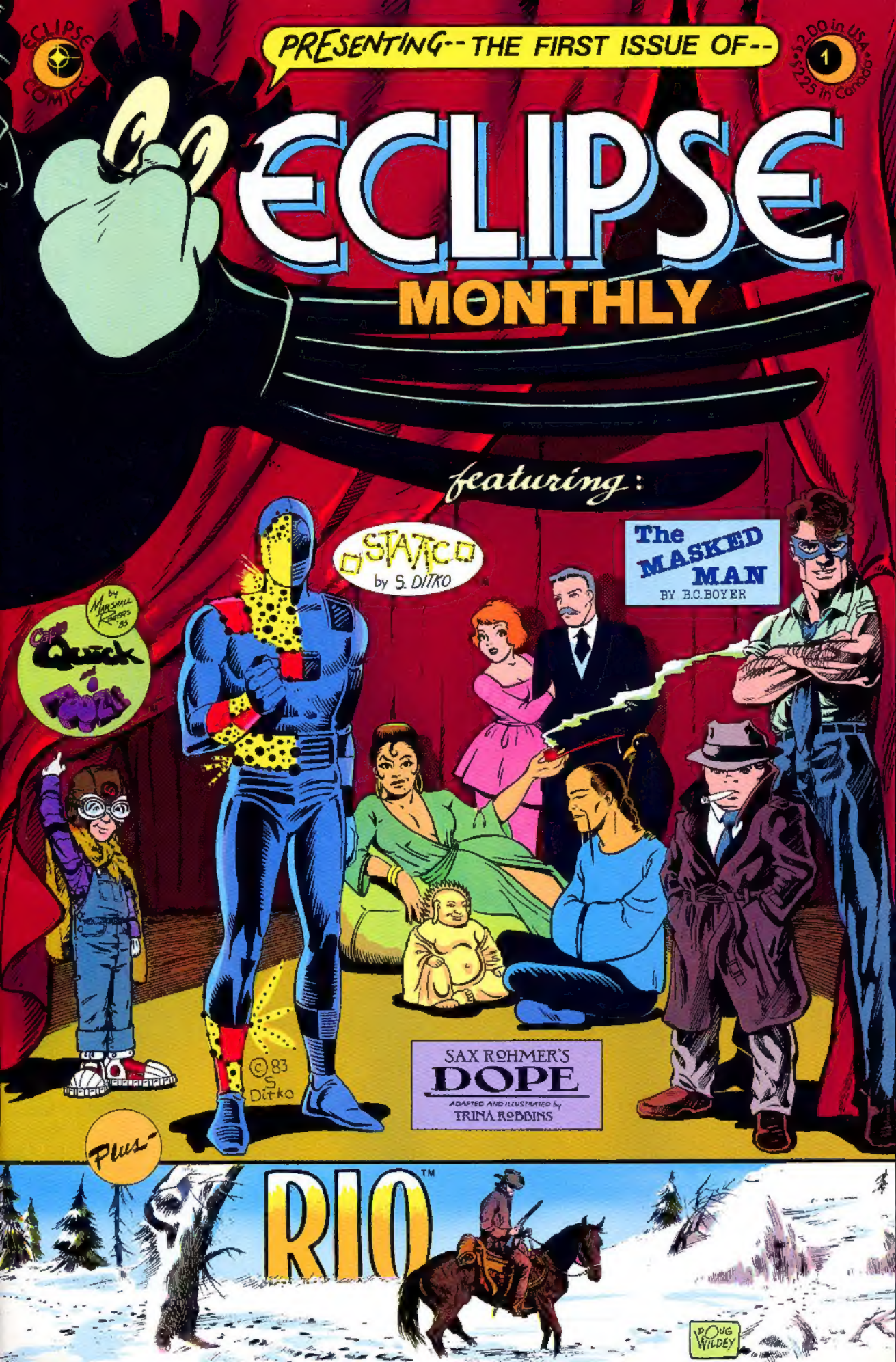

ECLIPSE COMICS
PRESENTING-- THE FIRST ISSUE OF--
$2.00 in USA
$2.25 in Canada
1
ECLIPSE
MONTHLY
featuring:
STATIC
by S. DITKO
The MASKED MAN
BY B.C. BOYER
Quick & Pozat
by Marshall Rogers '83
©83 S Ditko
SAX ROHMER'S
DOPE
ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY
TRINA ROBBINS
Plus-
RIO
DOUG WILDEY

It's been a long time since a color comic book like this one has been published. Some time ago, you see, some corporate executives at some large publishing companies decided that superheroes were the only profitable type of comic to produce. And so, other kinds of comics began to disappear. Romance titles, western stories, detective thrillers, pulp adventures . . . they were all pretty much condemned to the cancellation heaps.

If you're reading this now, then you're certainly aware of the revolution in comics over the past couple of years. Because your voice has been heard, companies like Eclipse, Pacific, First, Capital and others are bringing variety back to comics. How strange it is, then, to see the long established companies opening their dormant eyes to find that we are providing you with what you want, while they are playing catch-up. How strange indeed.

Another thing comics also used to be was bigger. Some of you may recall when you could buy a comic book, flip through its pages and read not one, not two, but five and more different stories! Well, you don't need to be one of the great minds of the Western world to figure out that ECLIPSE MONTHLY is our move to fill that gap. We think we've got a line-up that you'll enjoy.

CAP'N QUICK AND A FOOZLE is a very special series to Marshall Rogers. He cares about it so much that he not only writes and draws it, but letters and colors it as well! It's a fantasy strip, and a light-hearted one at that. To those of you who have been with us for a couple of years, you'll remember the Foozle named Klonsbon from a story that appeared in the first issue of the black-and-white ECLIPSE MAGAZINE. Since that day, we've been after Marshall to write some Foozle stories, but he always said that he was waiting for the right idea. Well, luckily for all of us, that "right idea" finally hit him, and with the addition of Cap'n Quick, The Foozle is here to stay.

B. C. Boyer's THE MASKED MAN appears in his third recorded adventure (two previous stories in ECLIPSE MAGAZINE will clue you in on his beginnings). Dick Carstairs a.k.a. The Masked Man is a "non-superpowered" modern day crime fighter who just happens to wear a mask.

RIO revives the western in America. While the Europeans are replaying the range wars in their comics year in and year out, American publishers have turned their backs on the genre, giving it up for dead. But as we all know, no true western hero can stay dead. Enter Rio. Enter Doug Wildey. Doug doesn't do many comics these days, ever since television grabbed him as a storyboarder. While he was off creating things like "Johnny Quest," comics missed him. But he's back, and he brings the realistic, historical western with him.

When it was published in 1919, Sax Rohmer's DOPE was another hit for the creator of Fu Manchu. Trina Robbins has been adapting the book chapter by chapter in ECLIPSE MAGAZINE. The final three installments will apprear in these pages. It's a classic pulp adventure. The story thus far: Rita Dresden, a rising musical comedy star in London, has become addicted to cocaine and veronal through the efforts of Sir Lucien ("Lucy") Pyne. She then gets involved with a group of society people addicted to drugs. Their suppliers are the "mystic" Kazmah, and the notorious Mrs. Sin, who introduces Rita to opium. Trying to kick the habit because of her recent marriage to Monte Irvin, Rita asked Lucy to intercede with Mrs. Sin and her husband, the one-eyed Chinaman Sin Sin Wa. When Lucy is murdered and Rita disappears, Chief Inspector Red Kerry of Scotland Yard begins his investigation.

Our final series is by Steve Ditko, who has created, among other characters, Spider-Man and Doctor Strange. In STATIC, Steve gives us a superhero, but not necessarily a costumed vigilante. "Thought-provoking" is perhaps the best description of the stories. Read them and see what *you* think.

Five series. Five different approaches. Some are self-contained and some end with monthly cliffhangers. Please — write and tell us how you feel about each strip, each genre, and what other kinds of comics you want to see in these pages. Send your letters to your co-editors, Dean Mullaney and catherine yronwode. Our address is: 105 Austin Avenue
Columbia, MO 65201

ECLIPSE MONTHLY (ISSN 0737-6189) Vol. 1, No. 1, August 1983. Published monthly by Eclipse Enterprises, 81 Delaware Street, Staten Island, NY 10304. Cap'n Quick and A Foozle © and TM 1983 Marshall Rogers; the Masked Man © and TM 1983 B. C. Boyer; Rio © and TM 1983 Doug Wildey; Dope adaptation © 1983 Trina Robbins; Static © and TM 1983 Steve Ditko. All other material © 1983 Eclipse Enterprises. The Eclipse Comics logo and colophon are TM Eclipse Enterprises. All rights reserved. Price $2.00 per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person, or any institution, is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in Canada.

* GOES BY THE NAME OF *KLOWSBON*, ya know.

IT ALL BEGINS ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

HEY KIDDO--PAT'S ON THE PHONE, ASKING IF YOU WANT TO MEET THE GANG OVER AT THE MALL ARCADE.

NOT NOW, DAD! TELL 'EM I'M BUSY!

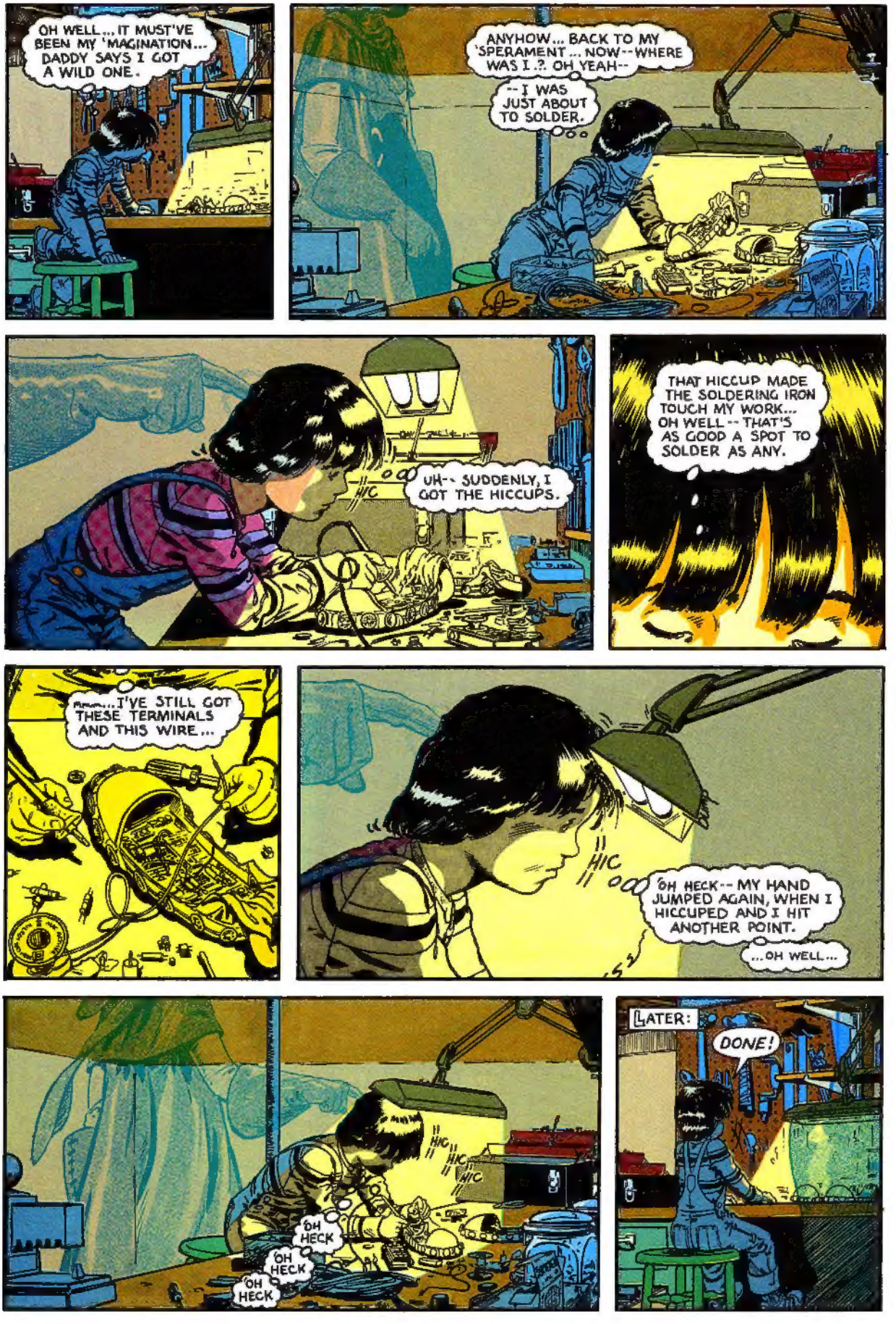
I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY BIG SECRET PR'JECT!

heh heh... SURE THING, I'LL TELL THEM.

by MARSHALL ROGERS '83

with thanx to: CHRIS CAT & WHACKO

Whheeeeeeeeeeee GOOD THING DADDY DIDN'T COME DOWN HERE. HE'D KILL ME FOR SURE IF HE KNEW I WAS USING ONE OF THE JOYSTICKS FOR MY 'SPERAMENT!
I'M TIRED OF SPENDING ALL MY QUARTERS PLAYIN' VIDEO GAMES! I'M TIRED OF JUST PLAYIN' THOSE OL' GAMES-- I WANNA GET INSIDE 'EM...
... JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES.
AN' THESE SHOES I'M 'VENTIN' WILL LET ME DO THAT!
LET'S SEE... I'LL PUT THAT THING HERE.
hmmmmmmmm... NOW WHERE SHOULD I SOLDER?
HUH!?-- SOMEBODY'S DOWN HERE!
DAD?? IS THAT YOU, DADDY?
I KNOW I FELT SOMETHING! BUT I DON'T SEE NOBODY!
WHO'S DOWN HERE?!
C'MON OUT! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE!


OH WELL... IT MUST'VE BEEN MY 'MAGINATION... DADDY SAYS I GOT A WILD ONE.
ANYHOW... BACK TO MY 'SPERAMENT... NOW--WHERE WAS I.?. OH YEAH--
--I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SOLDER.
UH-- SUDDENLY, I GOT THE HICCUPS.
HIC
THAT HICCUP MADE THE SOLDERING IRON TOUCH MY WORK... OH WELL -- THAT'S AS GOOD A SPOT TO SOLDER AS ANY.
Mmmm...I'VE STILL GOT THESE TERMINALS AND THIS WIRE...
HIC
OH HECK-- MY HAND JUMPED AGAIN, WHEN I HICCUPED AND I HIT ANOTHER POINT.
...OH WELL...
HIC
HIC
HIC
OH HECK
OH HECK
OH HECK
LATER:
DONE!

THESE OL' SNEAKERS O' MARK'S'RE PERFEC' TO BUILD MY 'VENTION ON.
THERE--PLUG IN THE JOY-STICK, AN' MY CONTROLS ARE ALL READY...
... NOW I'M SET TO GO!
BUT I CAN'T GO ONA 'VENTURE WITHOUT A COSTUME!
I'LL START WITH THESE OL' GLOVES--
--AN' THERE'S SOMETHIN' IN THE TRUNK I WANT.
I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE...
...HERE IT IS--
--GRANPA'S FLYIN' HELMET!
AND I NEED A CAPE!
HONEY--TIME TO COME UP AND WASH FOR DINNER!
AWW...MOM--JUST A COUPLA MINUTES MORE!

EEKERS! SOMETHIN'S HAPPENIN'--
--WHERE'D THESE LIGHTS COME FROM!?
MOMMY ---
WHAT DO I DO?

WHAT THE--

MATEY-- I OWE YE ME SKIN!

HEY--- YEOW!

MOVE IT, TUBBY! THEY'RE GETTING UP MAD!

THERE HE GOES! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!!

THERE HE GOES! THAT WAY!

I'LL CATCH HIM, JUST GIVE ME SOME LEG ROOM!

GRRRR--I'LL DRAG 'IM ACROSSS MY TAIL!

GO GET 'IM SLINKO!

DAMN PULSOR UNITS--!

WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

TO MY SHIP!

YOU CAN'T GO THERE, DUMMY! THAT'S THE FIRST PLACE THEY'LL LOOK--!

OH YEAH... RIGHT--

HEY... MISTER--

NOT NOW, KID.

COLDBERGER'S BAR & GRILL

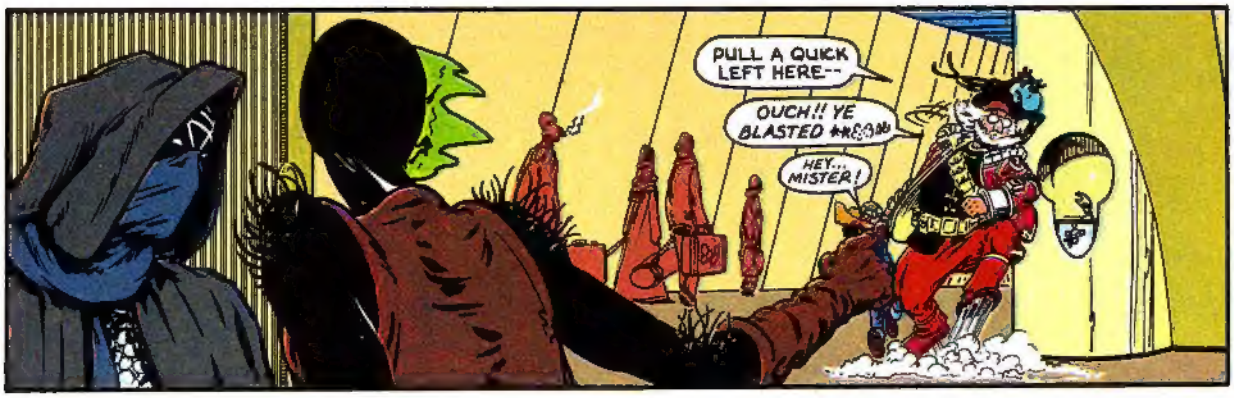
SLINKO'S IN THE BUNCH THAT'S AFTER US--BETTER KICK IN THE PROPULSION UNITS, FATSO.

HEY

RIGHT Y'ARE!

HEY MISTER

NOT NOW!

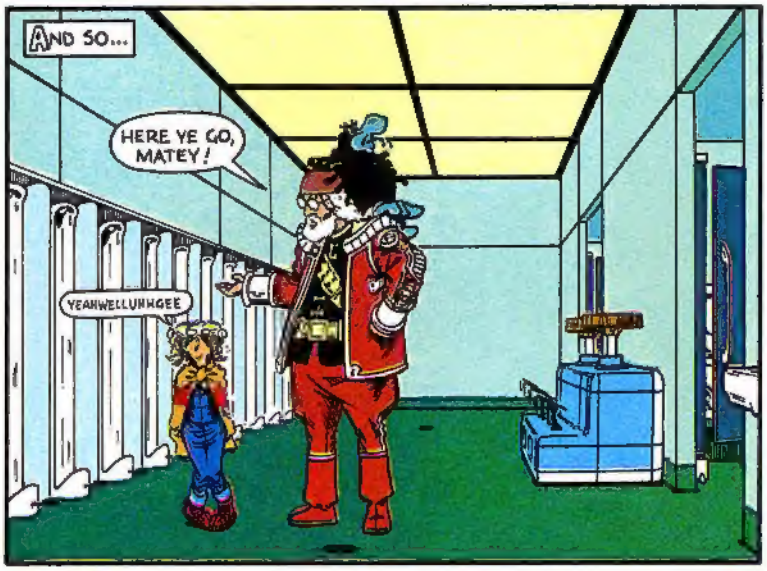

PULL A QUICK LEFT HERE--
OUCH!! YE BLASTED
HEY... MISTER!

... AND DUCK DOWN THE FIRST STAIRS YOU FIND!
HEY! MISTER!
huff huff

HEY MIS TER

WHAT DO YE WANT, KID?
IF'N THOSE TUBEBUGS GET THEIR PAWS ON US, WE'RE--
I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM

PERFECT! WE'LL HIDE IN THE HEAD!


AND SO...
HERE YE GO, MATEY!
YEAHWELLUHHGEE

...I GOTTA GO IN THERE!

WELL, YOU BIG DUNCE, YOU GOT US IN IT-- NOSE DEEP AGAIN!
ME--/-- IF'N YOU HADN'T TRIED TO STICK YUBAN MAC FOR THAT THIRD DRINK--

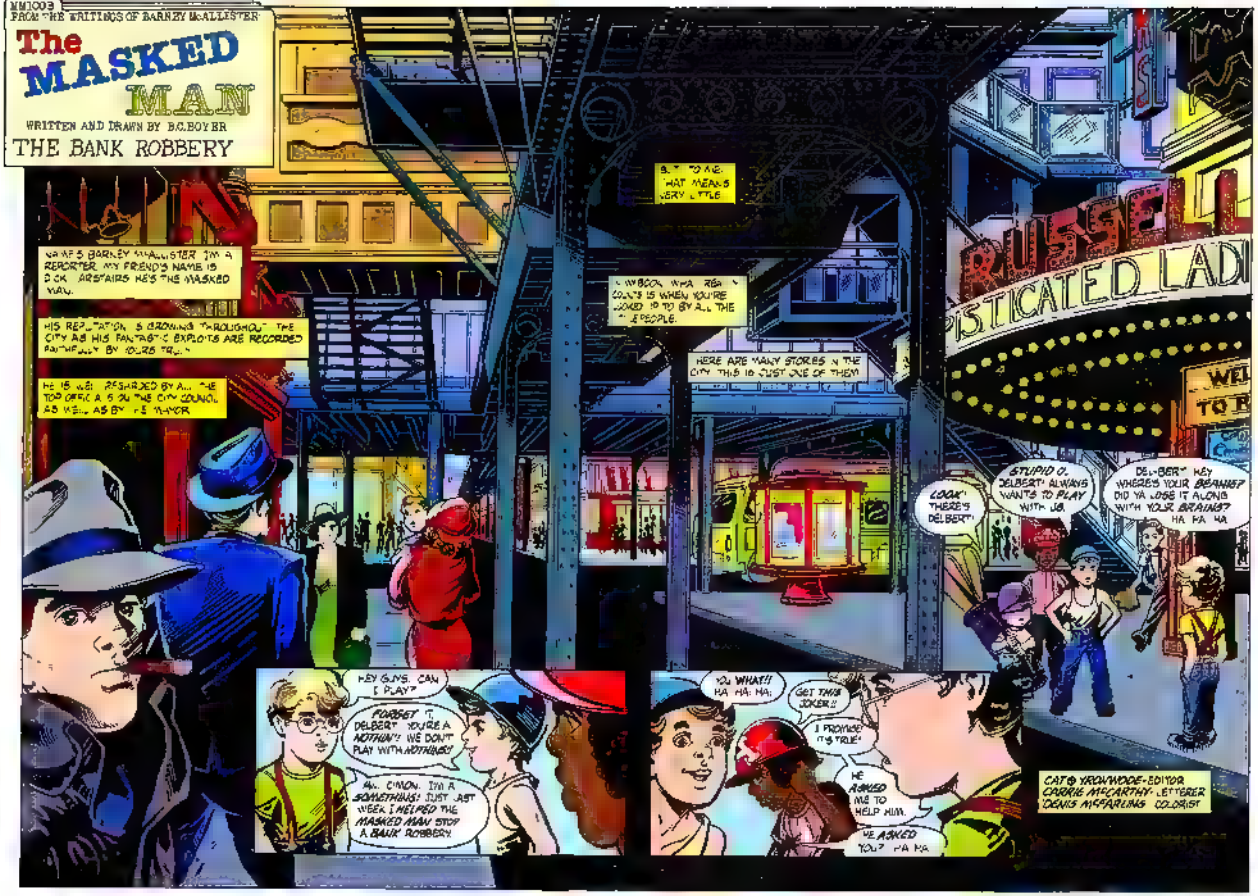
...Yeah Yeah... -- BUT IT'S BECAUSE YOU--
OH NO!
huh-- THE KID!
HEY MATEY-- ARE YE OKAY?
YEAH--
--BUT I LOST MY CONTROLS--
--WITHOUT THEM HOW CAN I GO HOME..?. MOMMY HAS DINNER READY.
IT'S OKAY, MATEY--
--WE CAN BOOK YOU PASSAGE BACK HOME--SOON'S AS WE LAY OUR MITTS ON SOME MONEY!
YOU BOZO--CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE KID'S NOT FROM HERE... BUT FROM THERE!?
A CONVENTIONAL TRANSPORT CAN'T BRIDGE THAT GAP!
OH YEAH, right...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
DON'T WORRY, KIDDO-- I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR CONTROLS...
...WHILE "BIG BILL" GOES OUT AND DIVERTS THE CREEPS WHO ARE CHASING US.
WAIT -A- MINUT--
--YE BEAK-NOSED, BIG-TOED VARMINT! YO' AIN'T GOING NO-WHAR WITHOUT ME!
NOW, NOW, BILL...
...LET'S LOOK AT THE SITUATION... NOW... THIS CHILD SAVED YOUR "SKIN"-- YOUR OWN WORDS--AND THOSE GOONS ARE AFTER YOU... HOWEVER, THEY'RE NOT HAPPY WITH THE KID, HERE, FOR TRIPPING THEM UP THE FIRST TIME--SO IF THEY CATCH YOU TWO TOGETHER, THEY'LL STOMP YOU BOTH INTO THE GROUND--
--AND THOSE TYPES HAVE GOT NO RESPECT FOR FOOZLES EITHER!
--SO YOU OWE IT TO THE KID'S GOOD HEALTH, TO MAKE THIS SACRIFICE... YOU HAVE TO GO OUT THERE AND GET THOSE CREEPS' ATTENTIONS, AND DRAW THEM AWAY FROM THE BAR--
--THEN WE CAN GO LOOK FOR THE MISSING CONTROLS, SO THE KID CAN GO HOME!
HEY... LOOKIT MY SHOES!
YE'RE RIGHT-- AGAIN!
BUT I AIN'T FORGETTIN' OUR DEBT!
THERE'S "BIG BILL"!
AFTER HIM!!
THERE HE GOES!
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, CAP'N.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WALK ON MY OWN FOR A WHILE.

ARE THEY GONNA HURT SANTA CLAUS?
THAT AIN'T WHO YOU THINK IT IS, CAP'N-- THAT'S "BIG BILL" AND HE'S TOO LUCKY TO GET CAUGHT!
UN-FOR-TUN-ATE-LY!
DO YOU SEE ANY OF THEM?
NOPE.
WHICH WAY NOW?
BACK TO THE BAR, WHERE YOU FIRST "DROPPED IN".
MUCH SNEAKINESS LATER:
HERE WE ARE CAP'N...
--LOOKS LIKE THEY CLOSED THE PLACE DOWN-- BUT SOMEONE FORGOT TO LOCK UP.
LUCKY FOR US.
NOW!!
SMACK
HEYBIRD! HELPME!
Oohhh... that was a beak buster...
HUH!! THEY TOOK THE CAP'N!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE FOOZLE STANDS ALONE--
(but not for long...)

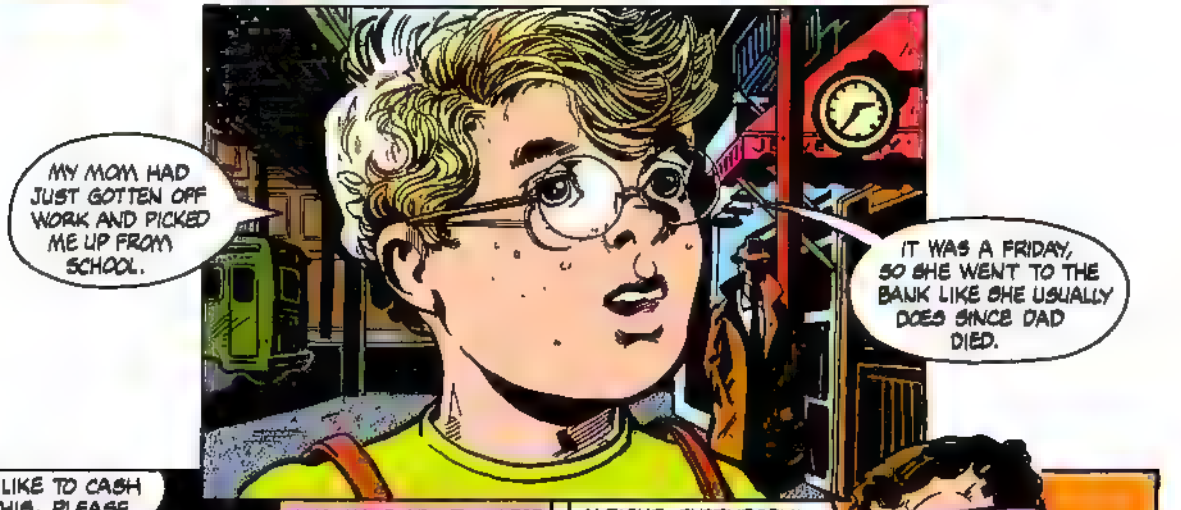
ECLIPSE

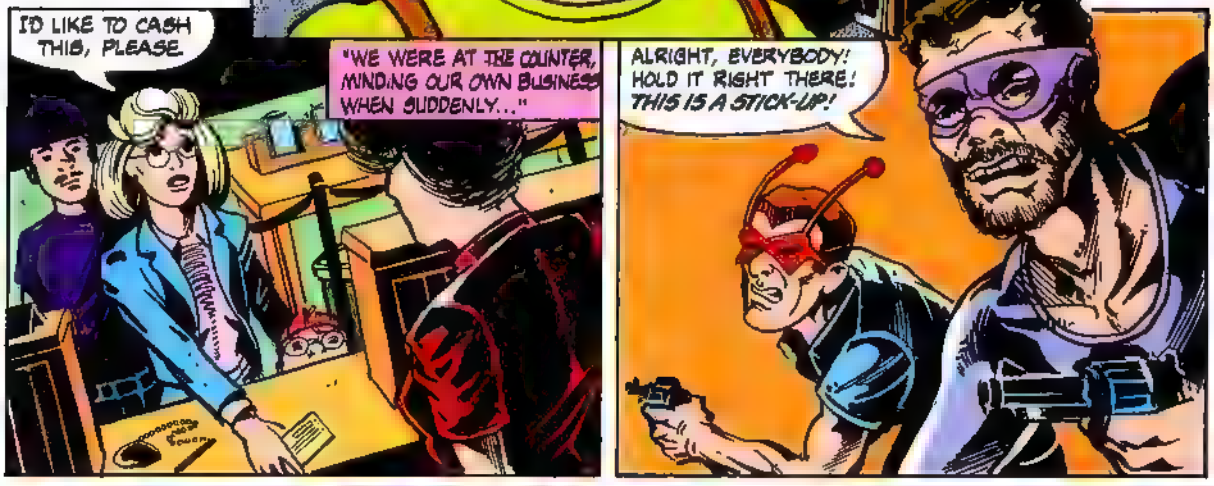
~~NEW~~
~~DIFFERENT~~
~~DARING~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~NOVEL~~
~~FRESH~~
~~ORIGINAL~~
~~UNUSUAL~~
~~UNCOMMON~~
~~UNPRECEDENTED~~
UNCONVENTIONAL
EXTRAORDINARY
~~NEUTRINO~~
~~RELIGIOUS~~
ANOMALOUS

MONTHLY™


MM1003
FROM THE WRITINGS OF BARNEY McALLISTER
The MASKED MAN
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY B.C.BOYER
THE BANK ROBBERY
MY NAME'S BARNEY McALLISTER. I'M A REPORTER. MY FRIEND'S NAME IS D.K. ARSEARS. HE'S THE MASKED MAN.
HIS REPUTATION IS GROWING THROUGHOUT THE CITY AS HIS FANTASTIC EXPLOITS ARE RECORDED FAITHFULLY BY YOURS TRULY.
HE IS WELL RESPECTED BY ALL THE TOP OFFICIALS IN THE CITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS BY THE MAYOR.
TO ME, THAT MEANS VERY LITTLE.
I KNOW WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS WHEN YOU'RE LOVED BY ALL THE LITTLE PEOPLE.
HERE ARE MANY STORES IN THE CITY. THIS IS JUST ONE OF THEM.
RUSSELL
PISTICATED LADI
WEL
TO B
LOOK! THERE'S DELBERT!
STUPID O. DELBERT! ALWAYS WANTS TO PLAY WITH US.
DEL-BERT! HEY WHERE'S YOUR BRAINS? DID YA LOSE IT ALONG WITH YOUR BRAINS? HA HA HA
HEY GUYS. CAN I PLAY?
RUBBER! IT DELBERT. YOU'RE A NOTHIN'! WE DON'T PLAY WITH NOTHINS!
AW, C'MON. I'M A SOMETHIN'! JUST LAST WEEK I HELPED THE MASKED MAN STOP A BANK ROBBERY.
YOU WHAT!! HA HA HA!
GET THIS JOKER!!
I PROMISE! IT'S TRUE!
HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM.
HE ASKED YOU? HA HA
CAT@ YROWMODE-EDITOR
CARRIE MCCARTHY- LETTERER
DENIS MCFARLING COLORIST

C'MON, GUYS! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
WAIT! I'M IN THE MOOD TO HEAR A TALL TAIL.
OH, C'MON!
GO AHEAD, DELBERT!
IF I TELL YOU, WILL YOU GUYS LET ME PLAY?
HOW 'BOUT IF YOU TELL US, I'LL LET YOU KEEP YOUR TEETH!
OK! OK! I'LL TELL!


MY MOM HAD JUST GOTTEN OFF WORK AND PICKED ME UP FROM SCHOOL.
IT WAS A FRIDAY, SO SHE WENT TO THE BANK LIKE SHE USUALLY DOES SINCE DAD DIED.


I'D LIKE TO CASH THIS, PLEASE.
"WE WERE AT THE COUNTER, MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS WHEN SUDDENLY..."
ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! THIS IS A STICK-UP!

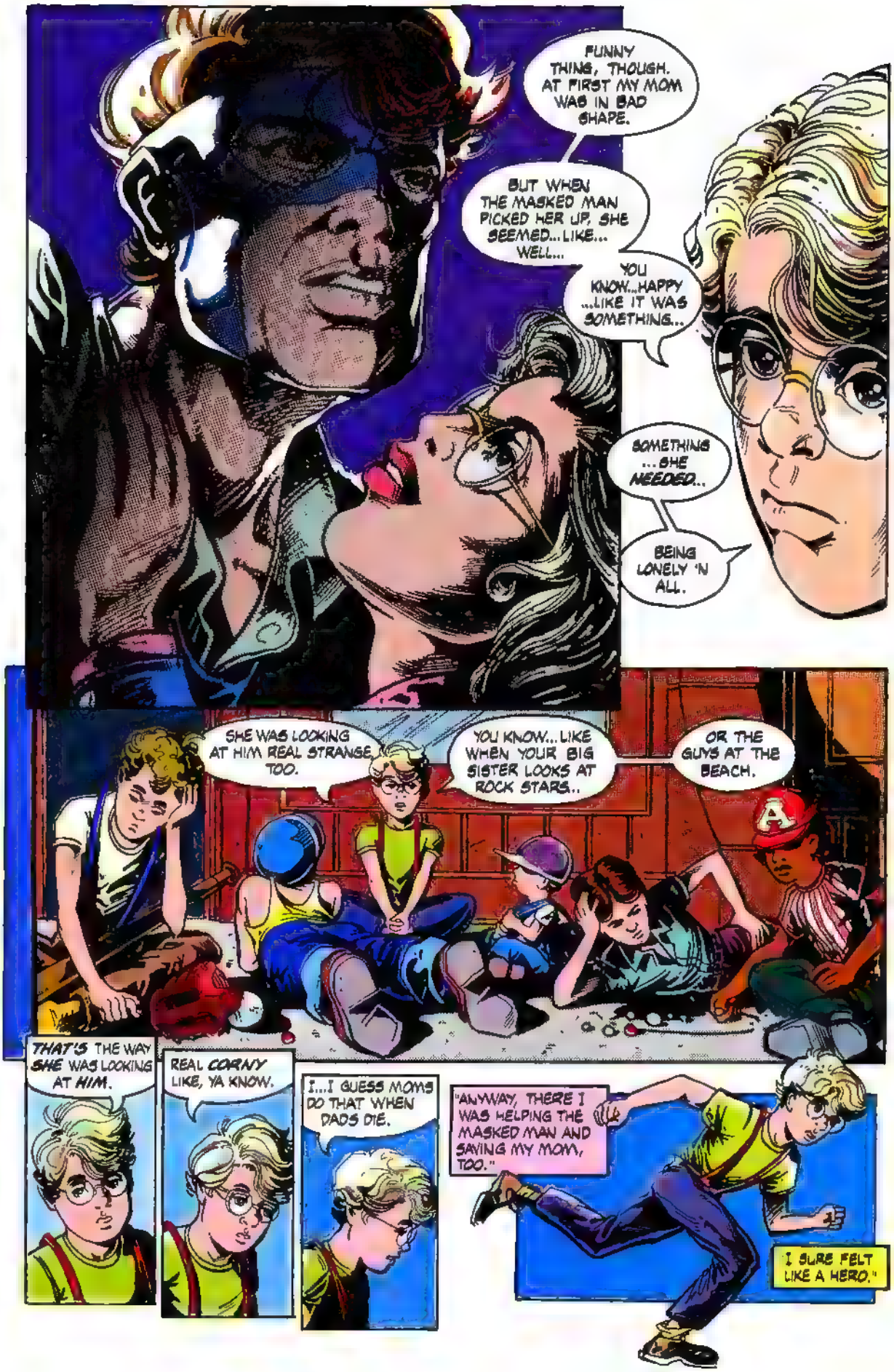
"A BUNCH OF CROOKS STARTED ROBBING THE PLACE."
OK, BOYS! START RAKING IN THE DOUGH!
"THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO... PROTECT MY MOM AT ALL COSTS. YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE SEEN ME. I WAS REALLY BRAVE.

YOU PEOPLE GO OVER THERE TO THE CORNER OR THERE'S GONNA BE SOME TROUBLE!
NOW MOVE IT!
"I DON'T WANT TO LASH OUT AT THEM BECAUSE AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER MIGHT GET HURT."
JUST THEN, THE MASKED MAN CAME BURSTING THROUGH THE WINDOW!"
GIVE UP NOW OR EAT DIRT!
ALRIGHT, BOYS! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
BLAM
"THE MASKED MAN WAS GREAT."
"BUT THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY OF THEM."

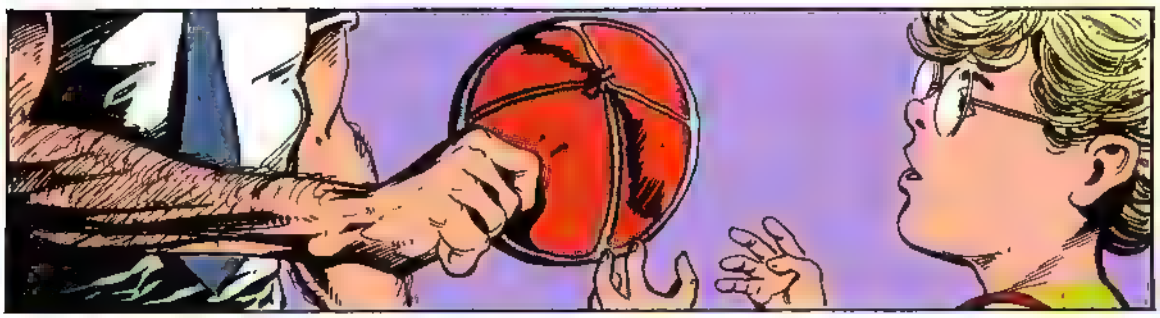
"SO...THEY TIED HIM UP ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE."
DON'T WORRY, MASKED MAN. AT LEAST YOU TRIED.
YEAH!
QUIET ALL OF YOU. THERE'S STILL A WAY.
THAT'S WHEN HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM OUT!
HE ASKED YOU TO HELP HIM OUT? HA! HA! HA!
HEY, CHARLIE! WHAT ARE YA LOOKIN' FOR?
DELBERT'S CAP. I FIGURE IF I FIND IT, I'LL FIND HIS BRAINS, TOO.
HA! HA! HA!
SO TELL US, DELBERT! WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
WELL... THE MASKED MAN WANTED ME TO CREATE A DIVERSION...
SO I DID!
MR. ROBBER, SIR! MR. ROBBER!
YEAH, KID! WHAT DO YA WANT?
I GOTTA GO WEE-WEE.

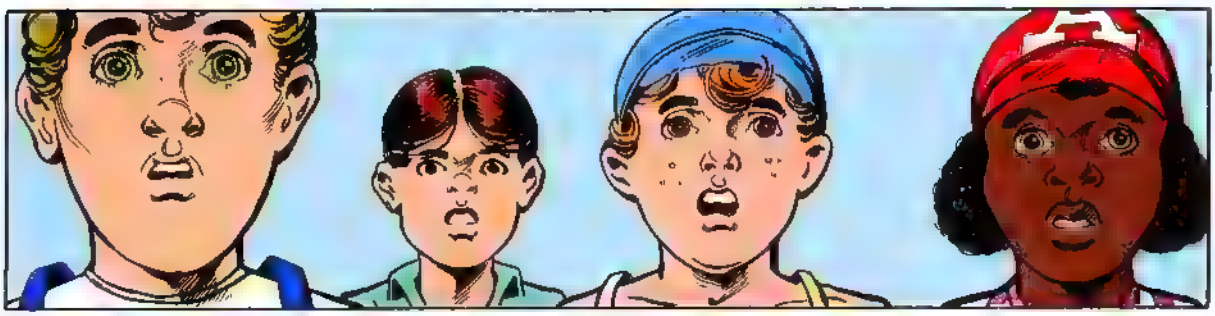
HEY, FRED.
I KNOCKED OFF YOUR OLD LADY LAST WEEK, REMEMBER?
YEAH?
SO.
SO YOU OWE ME ONE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
WHAT'S DELBERT UP TO?
HE'S CREATING A DIVERSION WHILE I WRANGLE OUT OF THESE KNOTS.
THE KIDS GOTTA GO WHAT?
WEE-WEE
FORGET YOU, BUDDY! NO WAY!
C'MON, FRED. IT AIN'T NOTHING.
NOTHING YOU SAY! NOTHING.
SUPPOSE THE KID MISSES!! HUH?
I'M WEARING A BRAND NEW PAIR OF SHOES, YA KNOW!!
"WHILE THE ROBBERS WERE TALKING, THE MASKED MAN UNTIED EVERYBODY."
YOU PEOPLE GET OUT OF HERE QUICK --I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE CRIMINALS.
FORGET IT, MASKED MAN.
YEAH! WE'RE TIRED OF ALL THIS CRIME. IT'S TIME WE FIGHT BACK!

"SUDDENLY IT WAS A MADHOUSE."
"THE BAD GUYS WERE SHOOTING EVERYWHERE WHILE US GOOD GUYS BEAT THEM DOWN."
"ONE OF THE STRAY BULLETS HIT MY MOM."
ARRGGH!
"SHE WASN'T HURT BAD, BUT SHE NEEDED TO GET TO A DOCTOR."
LISTEN! I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO DIRECT US TO THE NEAREST EXIT!
OKAY, MASKED MAN!
"THE MASKED MAN CARRIED MY MOM AS I BLAZED A TRAIL FOR THEM."
C'MON, YOU PEOPLE! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

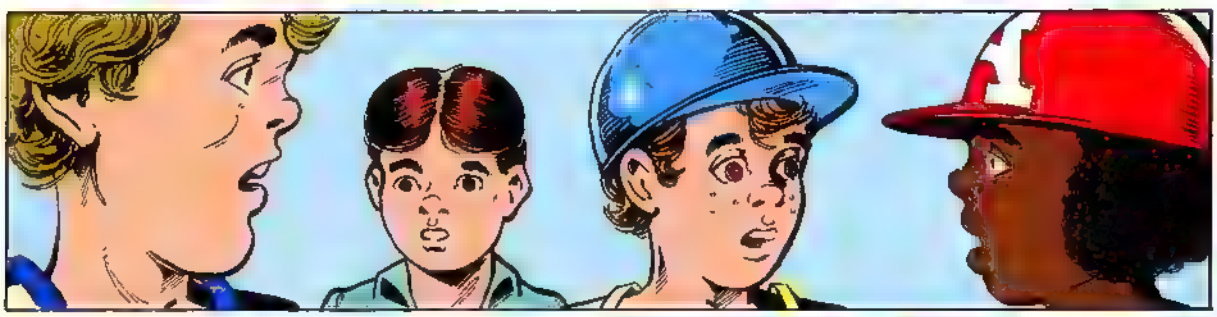

FUNNY THING, THOUGH. AT FIRST MY MOM WAS IN BAD SHAPE.
BUT WHEN THE MASKED MAN PICKED HER UP, SHE SEEMED... LIKE... WELL...
YOU KNOW...HAPPY ...LIKE IT WAS SOMETHING...
SOMETHING ...SHE NEEDED..
BEING LONELY 'N ALL.
SHE WAS LOOKING AT HIM REAL STRANGE, TOO.
YOU KNOW... LIKE WHEN YOUR BIG SISTER LOOKS AT ROCK STARS..
OR THE GUYS AT THE BEACH.
THAT'S THE WAY SHE WAS LOOKING AT HIM.
REAL CORNY LIKE, YA KNOW.
I...I GUESS MOMS DO THAT WHEN DADS DIE.
"ANYWAY, THERE I WAS HELPING THE MASKED MAN AND SAVING MY MOM, TOO."
I SURE FELT LIKE A HERO."

"WE SOON FOUND OUT THE POLICE WERE WAITING OUTSIDE. ONCE ALL THE PEOPLE GOT OUT, THEY WENT IN AFTER THE BAD GUYS."
SO YOU SEE I DID HELP THE MASKED MAN GET THOSE ROBBERS."
CAN I PLAY WITH YOU NOW?... HUH...CAN I?
FORGET IT, DELBERT, YOU'RE STILL A NOTHING!
HA! HA! WHAT A STORY!
BIGGEST LIE I EVER HEARD!
OH NO, GUYS! LOOK WHO'S COMIN'!
IT'S THE MASKED MAN!
HI, BERT-HOW'S THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS?
F...FINE, MR. MASKED MAN.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D STOP BY AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING.
YES, SIR.
DURING ALL THE CONFUSION, YOU FORGOT THIS.

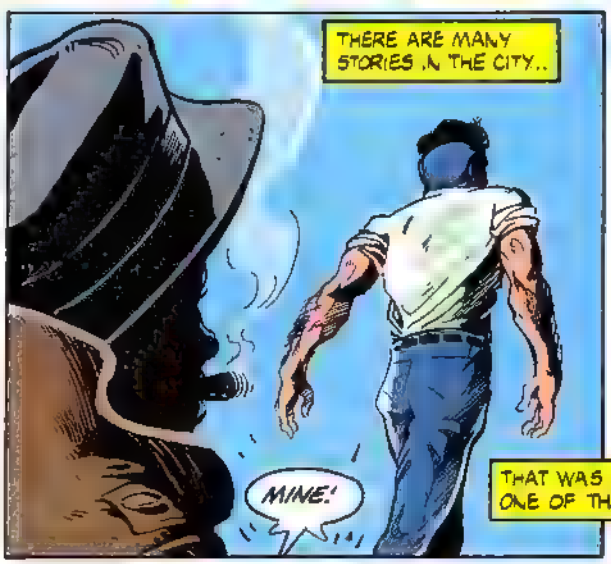


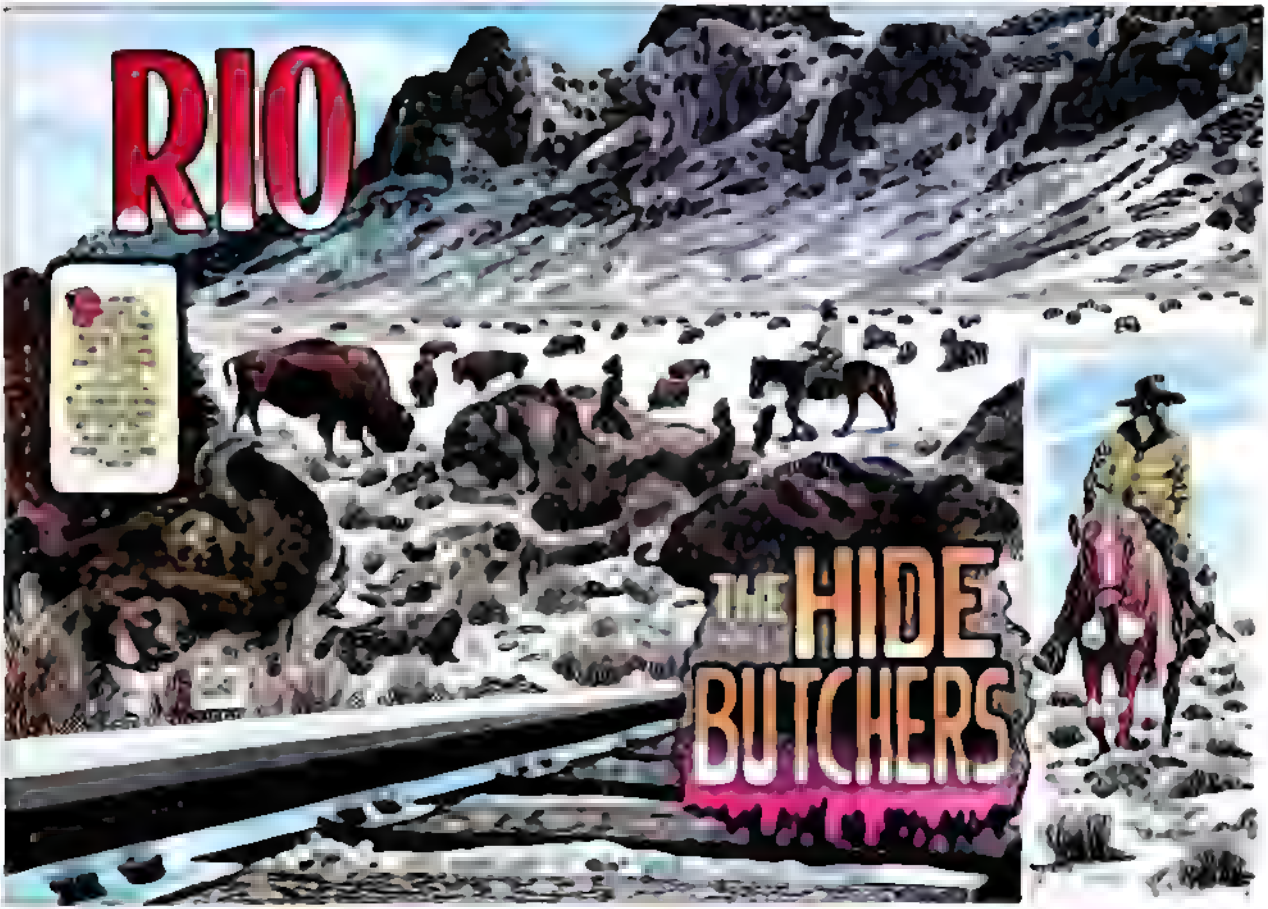


TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, NOW.
GEE THANKS, MR. MASKED MAN. I WILL.
SEE YOU LATER.



BERT'S ON MY TEAM!
NO, MINE!
MINE!
NO. MINE.


THERE ARE MANY STORIES IN THE CITY..
MINE!
THAT WAS JUST ONE OF THEM.


RIO
THE HIDE BUTCHERS

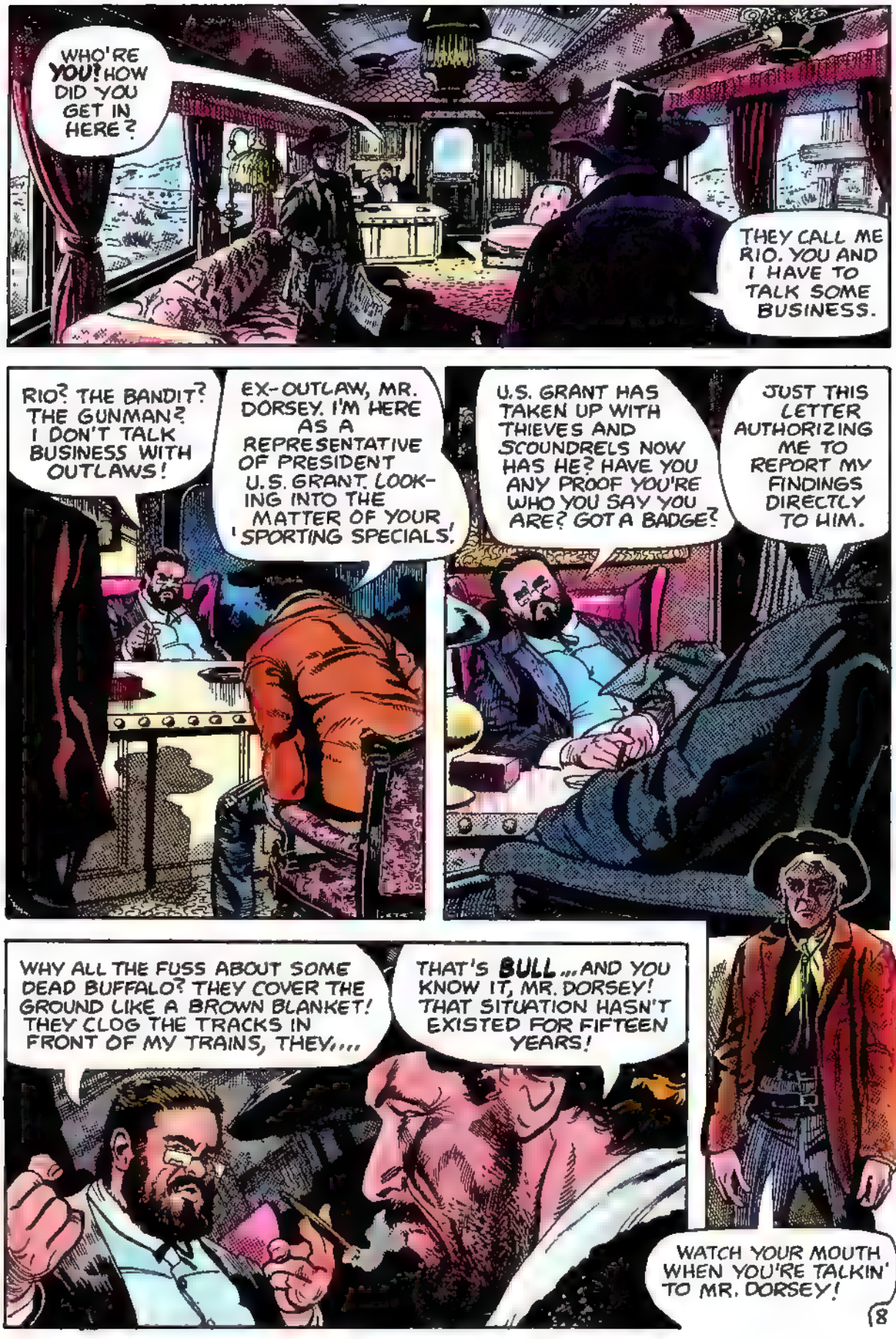
A HALF HOUR'S RIDE BRINGS THE TALL MAN TO WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE OF A SMALL PRAIRIE DWELLING.
DON'T COME NO CLOSER! I GOT A RIFLE ON YUH! RIDE ON OUT!
HEARD YOU WERE IN THESE PARTS, KING.... DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE AN OLD FRIEND?
RIO? RIO? THAT REALLY YOU? I...I CAN'T SEE SO GOOD NO MORE!
IT'S ME, KING. GOT A CUP OF THAT LYE YOU CALL COFFEE?
SURE! SURE, RIO! C'MON IN! I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YUH!
BEEN A LONG TIME, KING!
YEAH, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT ME, RIO,.... KING TAGGERT, BEST O' TH' GUNFIGHTERS!
ONE ARM GONE, BLIND IN ONE EYE, LIVIN' OUT MUH DAYS LIMPIN' AROUND A BEAT-UP SOD HUT! QUITE A COME-DOWN, HUH?
13

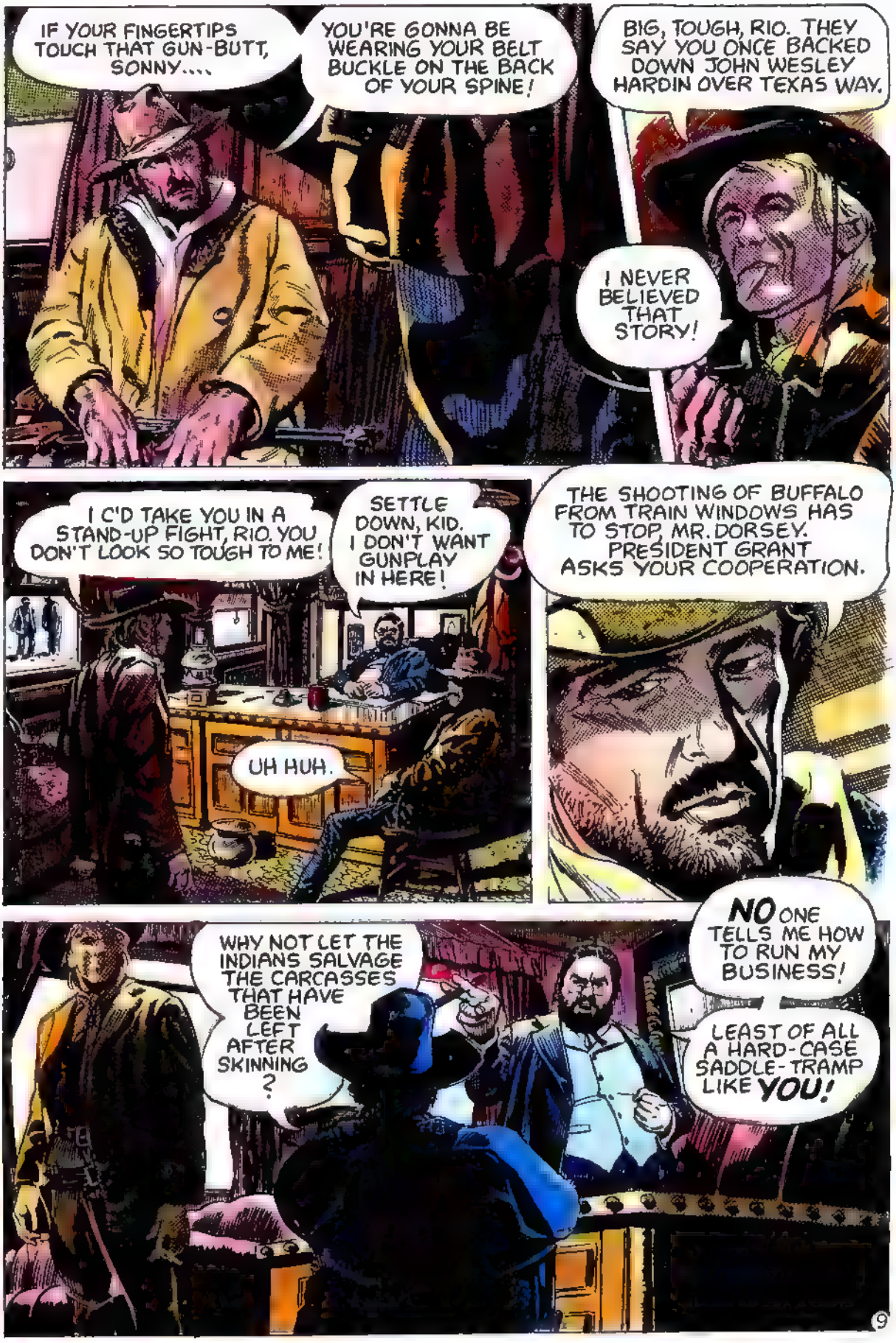
YOU'RE STILL WALKING AROUND... IN SPITE OF TAKING FOUR SLUGS!
BARELY WALKIN' AROUND! AIN'T NO PERCENTAGE IN TH' GUNSLINGIN TRADE, RIO. NONE AT ALL!
YOU'D DO WELL TO QUIT TOO, RIO.... B'FORE YUH WIND UP DEAD...OR LIKE ME!
I HAVE QUIT, KING. I'M WORKING ON A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR U.S. GRANT. MET HIM UP IN CHEYENNE.
YEP. HE OFFERED ME AMNESTY AND AN EVENTUAL FULL PARDON IF I WORK FOR HIM.
TH' PRESIDENT O' TH' UNITED STATES?
BEST THING YUH COULD'VE DONE! LOTT'A GUNMEN MARSHALLIN' NOWADAYS. TH' EARPS IN KANSAS, HICKOK OVER IN DEADWOOD...
WHAT SORT'A JOB YUH WORKIN' ON?
4

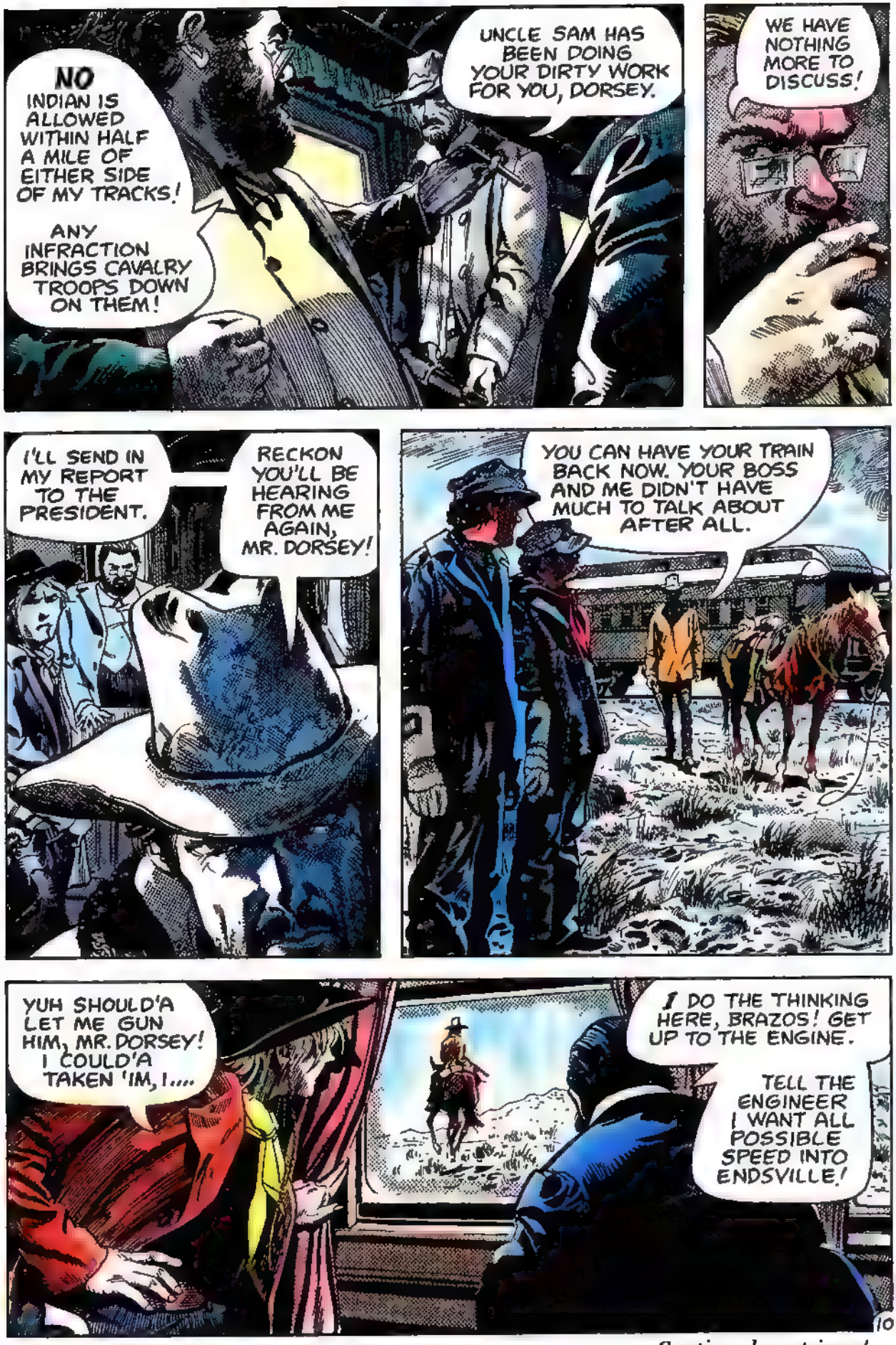
THE GOVERNMENT'S BEEN PUSHING THE INDIANS ONTO RESERVATIONS, KING, AWAY FROM THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS. BACK INTO THE HILLS!
THEY'VE WATCHED TRAINS CROSS THE PRAIRIE AND THEY'VE SEEN PASSENGERS SHOOT BUFFALO OUT OF THE TRAIN WINDOWS!
UH, HUH, THEM TRAINS IS KNOWN AS SPORTIN' SPECIALS!
FELLA IN TOWN, NAME O' BILLY GROOT RUNS TH' HIDE BUSINESS THERE. HAS SOME SORT'A AGREEMENT WITH TH' RAILROAD.
PASSENGERS SHOOT TH' BUFF, AN' OL' GROOT SENDS OUT HIS SKINNIN' CREWS TO GET TH' HIDES!
THE INDIANS CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE BUFFALO ARE SLAUGHTERED FOR 'SPORT!
THEY'VE SEEN SOME DEAD BEASTS SKINNED, BUT THE MEAT LEFT TO ROT!
COLLECTS ONLY TH' PRIME SKINS, OL' GROOT DOES!
THE HERDS ARE THINNING. THE INDIANS ARE HUNGRY AND ANGRY. PRESIDENT GRANT WANTS ME TO INVESTIGATE THE PRESENT SITUATION.
WHERE D'YA AIM TO START, RIO?
I FIGURE TO START AT THE SOURCE!

E PRAIRIE FLYER APPROACHES A WATER TANK...
WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE, LEM,...
...SO LET'S TAKE ON WATER AN' TRY TO MAKE UP TIME WHEN WE...
YOU! ENGINEER!
HUH?
LIGHT DOWN FROM THAT CAB!

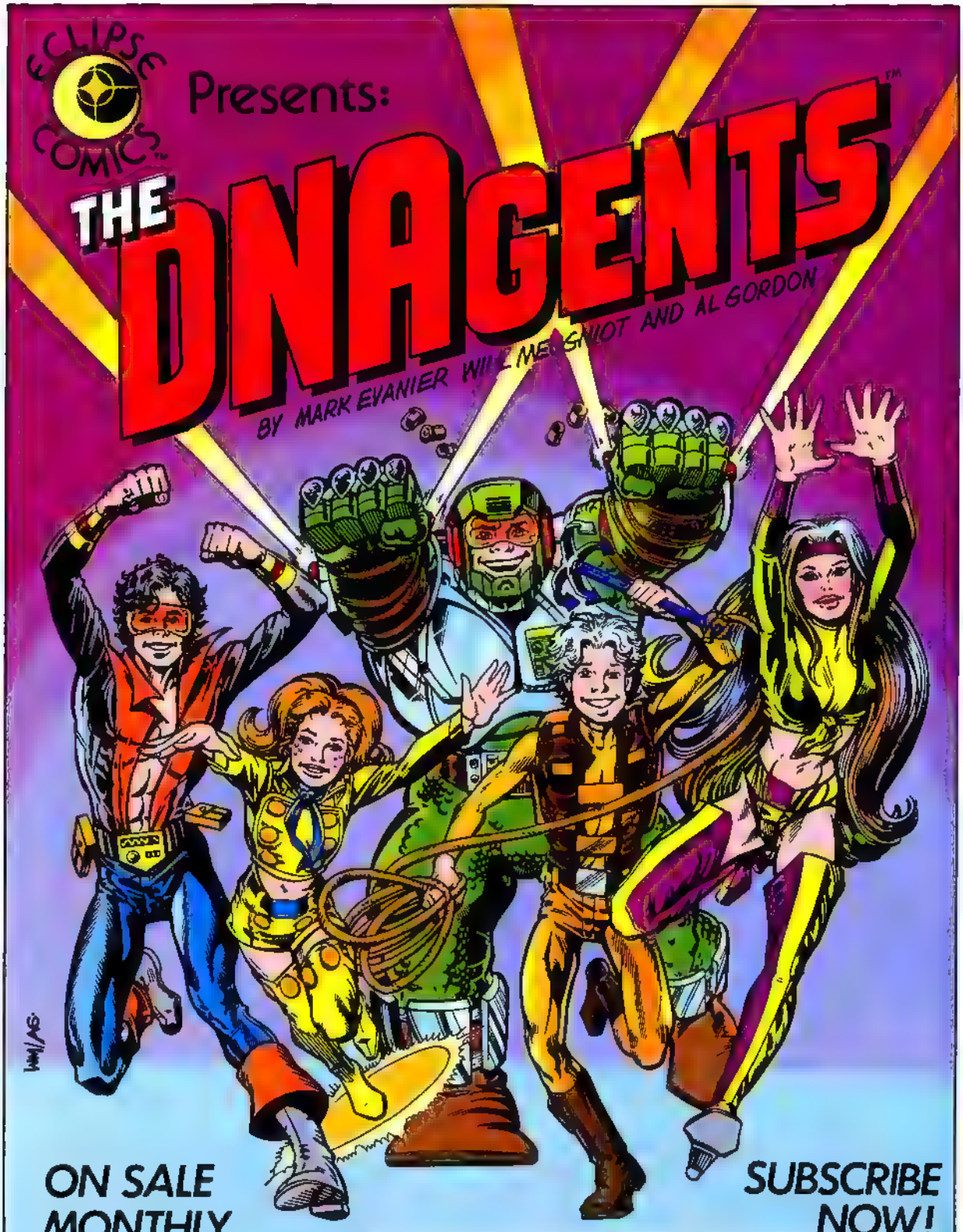
DUNNO WHO YOU ARE, MISTER, BUT THIS IS A PRIVATE TRAIN!
I WANT YOU AND THE FIREMAN TO WALK OUT FROM THE TRACKS 'BOUT A HUNDRED FEET.
YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE! TH' PRESIDENT O' THIS RAIL-ROAD IS ON THIS TRAIN!
START WALKING.
YOU'LL BE OUT THERE WHERE I CAN SEE YOU FROM INSIDE THE TRAIN.
I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH YOUR BOSS!


WHO'RE YOU! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
THEY CALL ME RIO. YOU AND I HAVE TO TALK SOME BUSINESS.
RIO? THE BANDIT? THE GUNMAN? I DON'T TALK BUSINESS WITH OUTLAWS!
EX-OUTLAW, MR. DORSEY. I'M HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT U.S. GRANT. LOOKING INTO THE MATTER OF YOUR 'SPORTING SPECIALS.'
U.S. GRANT HAS TAKEN UP WITH THIEVES AND SCOUNDRELS NOW HAS HE? HAVE YOU ANY PROOF YOU'RE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE? GOT A BADGE?
JUST THIS LETTER AUTHORIZING ME TO REPORT MY FINDINGS DIRECTLY TO HIM.
WHY ALL THE FUSS ABOUT SOME DEAD BUFFALO? THEY COVER THE GROUND LIKE A BROWN BLANKET! THEY CLOG THE TRACKS IN FRONT OF MY TRAINS, THEY....
THAT'S BULL... AND YOU KNOW IT, MR. DORSEY! THAT SITUATION HASN'T EXISTED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU'RE TALKIN' TO MR. DORSEY!


IF YOUR FINGERTIPS TOUCH THAT GUN-BUTT, SONNY....
YOU'RE GONNA BE WEARING YOUR BELT BUCKLE ON THE BACK OF YOUR SPINE!
BIG, TOUGH, RIO. THEY SAY YOU ONCE BACKED DOWN JOHN WESLEY HARDIN OVER TEXAS WAY.
I NEVER BELIEVED THAT STORY!
I C'D TAKE YOU IN A STAND-UP FIGHT, RIO. YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME!
SETTLE DOWN, KID. I DON'T WANT GUNPLAY IN HERE!
UH HUH.
THE SHOOTING OF BUFFALO FROM TRAIN WINDOWS HAS TO STOP, MR. DORSEY. PRESIDENT GRANT ASKS YOUR COOPERATION.
WHY NOT LET THE INDIANS SALVAGE THE CARCASSES THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT AFTER SKINNING ?
NO ONE TELLS ME HOW TO RUN MY BUSINESS!
LEAST OF ALL A HARD-CASE SADDLE-TRAMP LIKE YOU!


NO INDIAN IS ALLOWED WITHIN HALF A MILE OF EITHER SIDE OF MY TRACKS!
ANY INFRACTION BRINGS CAVALRY TROOPS DOWN ON THEM!
UNCLE SAM HAS BEEN DOING YOUR DIRTY WORK FOR YOU, DORSEY.
WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS!
I'LL SEND IN MY REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT.
RECKON YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM ME AGAIN, MR. DORSEY!
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR TRAIN BACK NOW. YOUR BOSS AND ME DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT AFTER ALL.
YUH SHOULD'A LET ME GUN HIM, MR. DORSEY! I COULD'A TAKEN 'IM, I....
I DO THE THINKING HERE, BRAZOS! GET UP TO THE ENGINE.
TELL THE ENGINEER I WANT ALL POSSIBLE SPEED INTO ENDSVILLE!

Continued next issue!



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SAX ROHMER'S DOPE

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CHAPTER EIGHT
A Visit to Sin

LONDON WAS FOG-BOUND. THE CHOKING MIST CAST ITS NET OVER CITY AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE DOCKS ITS DENSITY WAS EXTRAORDINARY. THROUGH THE GULLIES OF SMOKE THAT FILLED LIMEHOUSE NAVIGATED CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY AND CONSTABLE P.C. BRYCE, SEEKING THE MISSING ACTRESS RITA IRVIN. VICTIM OF DRUG ADDICTION, AND PAWN IN THE MYSTERIOUS GAME PLAYED BY KAZMAH THE EGYPTIAN SEER, LOLA SIN AND HER HUSBAND, THE IMPERTURBABLE SIN SIN WA, OPIUM SMUGGLERS.

HELL! WHERE THE DEVIL ARE YOU, CONSTABLE?

HERE BESIDE YOU, SIR. ABOUT A DOZEN PACES AND WE SHALL SEE THE LAMP..

...IF IT'S BEEN LIGHTED

HELLO! NUMBER ONE P'LICE CHOP, LO!

SIN SIN WA IS AT HOME THAT'S THE RAVEN

YOU WANTCHEE ME?

I DO! I'VE CALLED TO LOOK FOR OPIUM.

SMARTEST LEG!

I WANT TO SEE YOUR WIFE. FETCH HER.

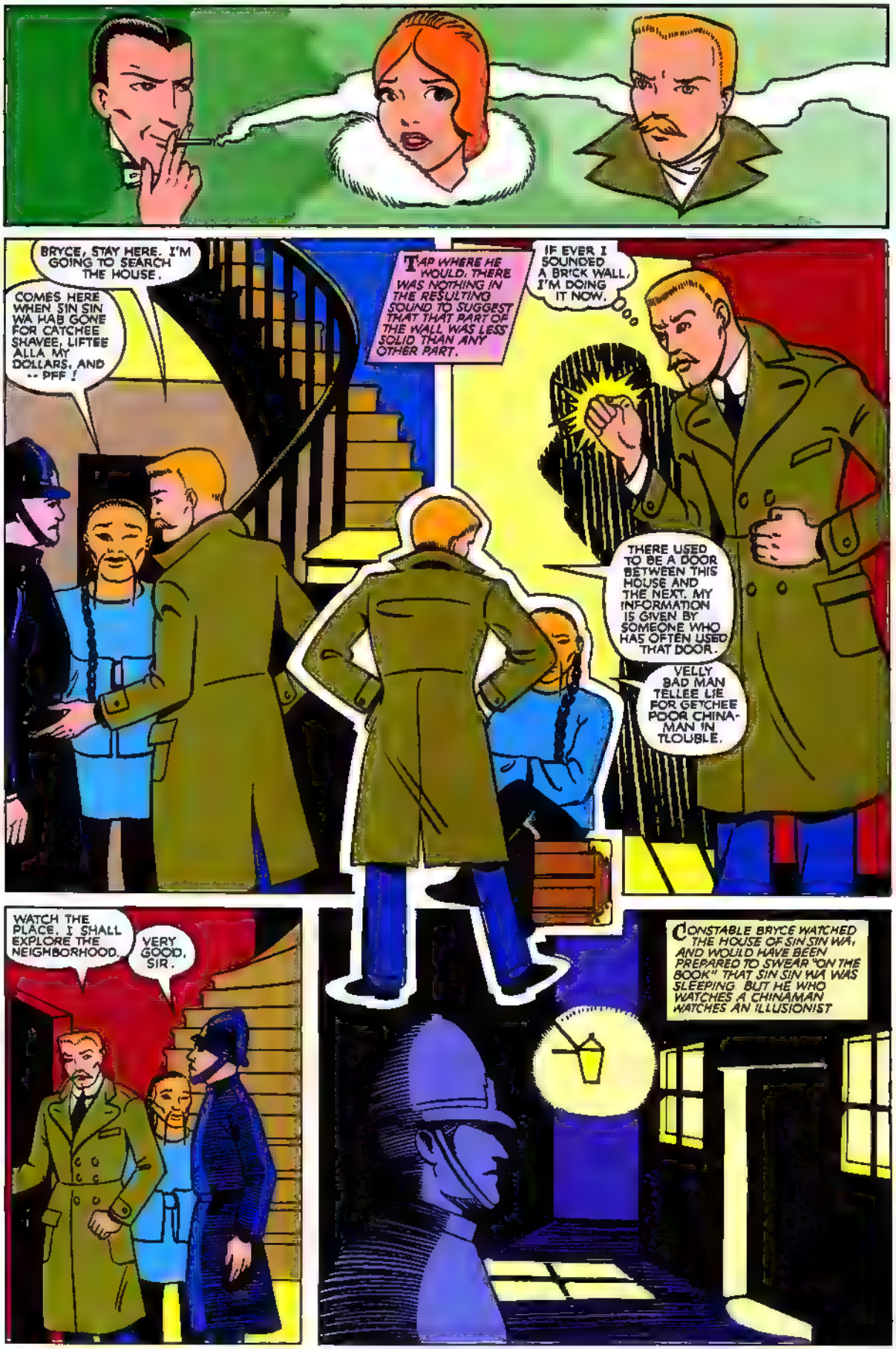
SHE VELLY BAD WOMAN. SHE NO HAB TOPSIDE PIDGIN

DON'T TALK FETCH HER!

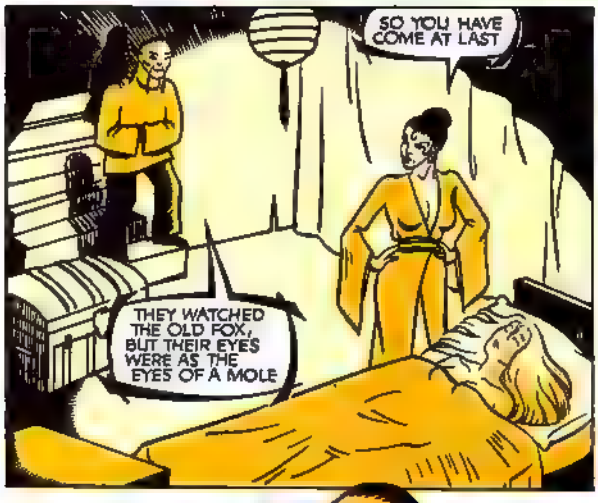
ME NO HAB GOTCHEE WIFEE.

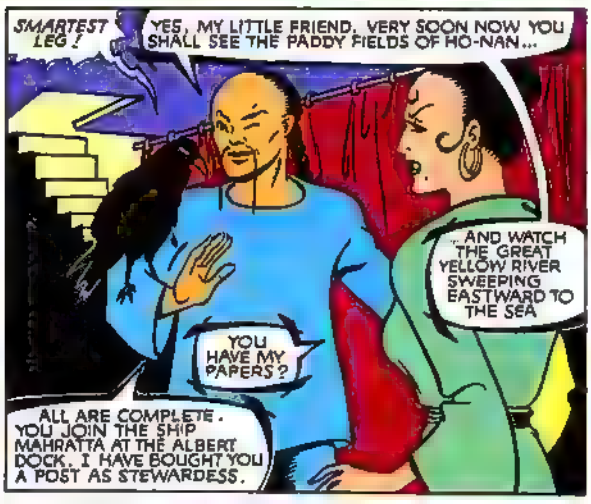
FOR THE LAST TIME, WHERE'S Mrs SIN?

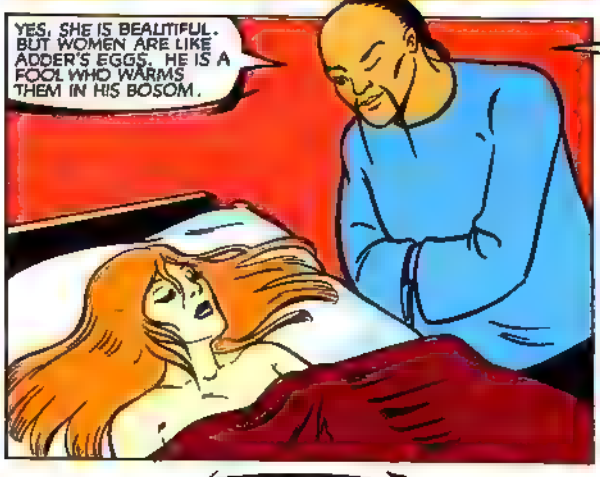
CATCHEE LUN OFF. VELLY BAD WOMAN. TLIEF WOMAN. CATCHEE STEALEE ALLA MY DOLLARS!

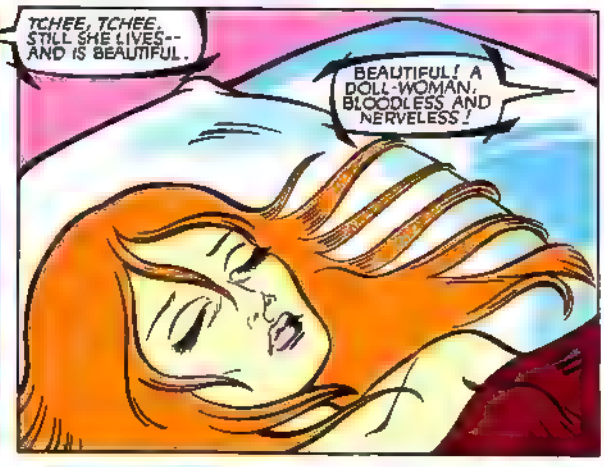

BRYCE, STAY HERE. I'M GOING TO SEARCH THE HOUSE.
COMES HERE WHEN SIN SIN WA HAB GONE FOR CATCHEE SHAVEE, LIFTEE ALLA MY DOLLARS, AND -- PFF !
TAP WHERE HE WOULD. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE RESULTING SOUND TO SUGGEST THAT THAT PART OF THE WALL WAS LESS SOLID THAN ANY OTHER PART.
IF EVER I SOUNDED A BRICK WALL, I'M DOING IT NOW.
THERE USED TO BE A DOOR BETWEEN THIS HOUSE AND THE NEXT. MY INFORMATION IS GIVEN BY SOMEONE WHO HAS OFTEN USED THAT DOOR.
VELLY BAD MAN TELLEE LIE FOR GETCHEE POOR CHINA-MAN IN TLOUBLE.
WATCH THE PLACE. I SHALL EXPLORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
CONSTABLE BRYCE WATCHED THE HOUSE OF SIN SIN WA, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO SWEAR "ON THE BOOK" THAT SIN SIN WA WAS SLEEPING. BUT HE WHO WATCHES A CHINAMAN WATCHES AN ILLUSIONIST

THE DOOR OF SIN SIN WA'S ESTABLISHMENT WHICH GAVE UPON A LITTLE BACKYARD, OPENED NOISLESSLY. LIKE A SHADOW, LIKE A GHOST, SIN SIN WA CREPT FORTH.
CRASH!
HELLO! WHO'S THERE?
SAM TUK BARBER
SAM TUK BARBER
HELLO! HELLO! NUMBER ONE P'LICE CHOP LO! SIN SIN WA! SIN SIN...
COME, MY TLING-A-LING.


SO YOU HAVE COME AT LAST
THEY WATCHED THE OLD FOX, BUT THEIR EYES WERE AS THE EYES OF A MOLE


SMARTEST LEG!
YES, MY LITTLE FRIEND, VERY SOON NOW YOU SHALL SEE THE PADDY FIELDS OF HO-NAN...
AND WATCH THE GREAT YELLOW RIVER SWEEPING EASTWARD TO THE SEA
YOU HAVE MY PAPERS?
ALL ARE COMPLETE. YOU JOIN THE SHIP MAHRATTA AT THE ALBERT DOCK. I HAVE BOUGHT YOU A POST AS STEWARDESS.

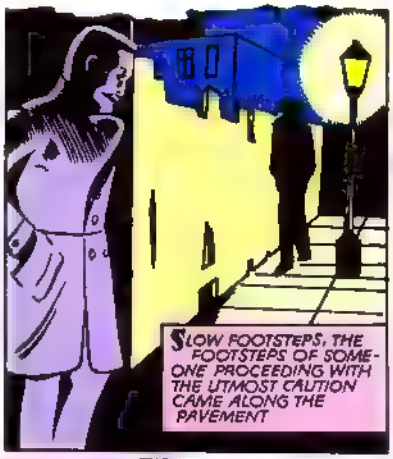

YES, SHE IS BEAUTIFUL. BUT WOMEN ARE LIKE ADDER'S EGGS. HE IS A FOOL WHO WARMS THEM IN HIS BOSOM.


TCHEE, TCHEE. STILL SHE LIVES-- AND IS BEAUTIFUL.
BEAUTIFUL! A DOLL-WOMAN, BLOODLESS AND NERVELESS!

SO-SO. YET SHE, SO BLOODLESS AND NERVELESS, UNMASKED THE SECRET OF KAZMAH, AND STRUCK DOWN--
YES, YES! SHE IS A ROBBER, A THIEF, A MURDERESS. WITH MY BARE HANDS I WOULD STRANGLE HER. BUT--!
THERE MUST BE NO MARKS OF VIOLENCE WHEN SHE IS FOUND IN THE RIVER TCHEE, TCHEE-- IT IS A PITY

NUMBER ONE P'LICE CHOP, LO!
WHY DO YOU BRING THAT EVIL, CROAKING THING HERE? HAVE WE NOT ENOUGH RISKS?
TOO MANY, FOR FAILURE IS NOTHING BUT THE TAKING OF SEVEN RISKS WHEN SIX WERE ENOUGH COME--LET US SETTLE OUR AFFAIRS.

TOWARDS MIDNIGHT THE FOG BEGAN TO LIFT. A CONVICTION HAD BEEN GROWING UPON KERRY THAT SOMEONE WAS DOGGING HIS FOOTSTEPS.



A SHADOWY FIGURE APPEARED A YARD AWAY FROM THE WATCHFUL CHIEF INSPECTOR

HE SEARCHED THE POCKETS OF THE PROSTRATE MAN. IN THE BREAST POCKET HE FOUND A LEATHER WALLET OF GOOD QUALITY. OPENING THE WALLET HE FOUND A NUMBER OF CARDS

TAKING UP ONE OF THE CARDS, HE READ

LORD WREXBOROUGH
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department
Great Cumberland Place, W.1
GOD'S TRUTH! AN AGENT FROM THE HOME OFFICE!

I'M GLAD YOU SPOKE, CHIEF INSPECTOR KERRY. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO KICK YOU IN THE BACK OF THE NECK!
SIR, IF EVER YOU NEED A TESTIMONIAL TO YOUR EFFICIENCY AT THIS GAME, MY ADDRESS IS SIXTY-SEVEN SPENSER ROAD, BRIXTON. WE'VE MET BEFORE

DOUGAL'S, A COFFEE SHOP USED BY THE DOCKERS, WAS PRESIDED OVER BY A RED-ARMED, BRAWNY WOMAN

TWO CUPS OF COFFEE, AND TWO LUMPS OF SUGAR IN EACH

TO HELL WID YER SUGAR! YEZ CAN HAVE ONE TAYSPOON OF BROWN, AND NO MORE TO-NIGHT

IT IS CERTAINLY ODD THAT YOU FAILED TO BREAK MY NECK. BUT I HAVE MADE IT A PRACTICE SINCE TAKING UP RESIDENCE HERE TO WEAR A CAP HEAVILY PADDED.

YOU'RE HARDER TO KILL THAN A CHINESE-JEW.

WELL, SIR, WE'VE LAID OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE. I TAKE IT YOU BEGAN WORK ON THE VERY NIGHT OF THE MURDER.

I DID. BY ACCIDENT-- THE FINDING OF OPIATED CIGARETTES IN Mr GRAY'S ROOMS, I PERCEIVED THAT THE BUSINESS WHICH HAD LED TO MY RECALL FROM THE EAST WAS INVOLVED IN THE BOND STREET MYSTERY. FRANKLY, CHIEF INSPECTOR, I DOUBTED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER.

THE INCREASE OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC AND THE FAILURE OF THE POLICE TO COPE WITH IT HAD LED TO A HOME OFFICE INQUIRY. IN LOOKING FOR A CONFIDENTIAL AGENT, MY NAME CROPPED UP I WAS EMPLOYED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT LORD WREXBOROUGH BORROWED ME

AND I TAKE IT YOUR INVESTIGATIONS HAVE LED TO THE CONCLUSIONS THAT OUR HANDS ARE CLEAN?

I NEVER DOUBTED THIS, CHIEF INSPECTOR. IT IS A CASE OF CLEVER *CAMOUFLAGE* RATHER THAN CORRUPTION

LET US SEE IF WE ARE ANY NEARER TO THE HEART OF THE MYSTERY OF KAZMAH SOMEWHERE NEAR THIS SPOT IS A STORE OF STUFF BIG ENOUGH TO DOPE ALL EUROPE! KAZMAH IS PROBABLY HIDING THERE AND Mrs MONTE IRVIN IS BEING HELD PRISONER!

IF THEY HAVEN'T--

FOR IRVIN'S SAKE I HOPE NOT, CHIEF INSPECTOR.

INSPECTOR KERRY ARRIVED HOME AT DAWN, WEARY AND HAGGARD

THANK THE GOOD GOD I SEE YE ALIVE, DAN. I WAKENED WI' A CRY AT SOME HOUR AFORE THE DAWN. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FROM ME

I NEARLY WAS. THE MAN FROM THE HOME OFFICE ONLY MISSED ME BY A MIRACLE.

T'WAS THE MIRACLE OF PRAYER, DAN, FOR I PRAYED AS NE'ER BEFORE IN MY DREAMS I HAD SEEN A POOR SOUL ON A BED O' SORROW. AT THE FOOT O' THE BED STOOD A FEARSOME FIGURE OF A MAN-- YELLOW AND WICKED. AND PLAIN, I HEARD THE HOWLING O' A DOG.

A DOG!

THE HOWLING OF A SMALL DOG. AND I THOUGHT 'TWAS A PORTENT, AND THE FEAR COME O'ER ME.

I HAVE IT!

SCOTLAND YARD HAS FAILED WHERE A DOG WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED

MARY, THE CASE IS WON!

A SUIVRE..

STATIC

© 82 S. DITKO

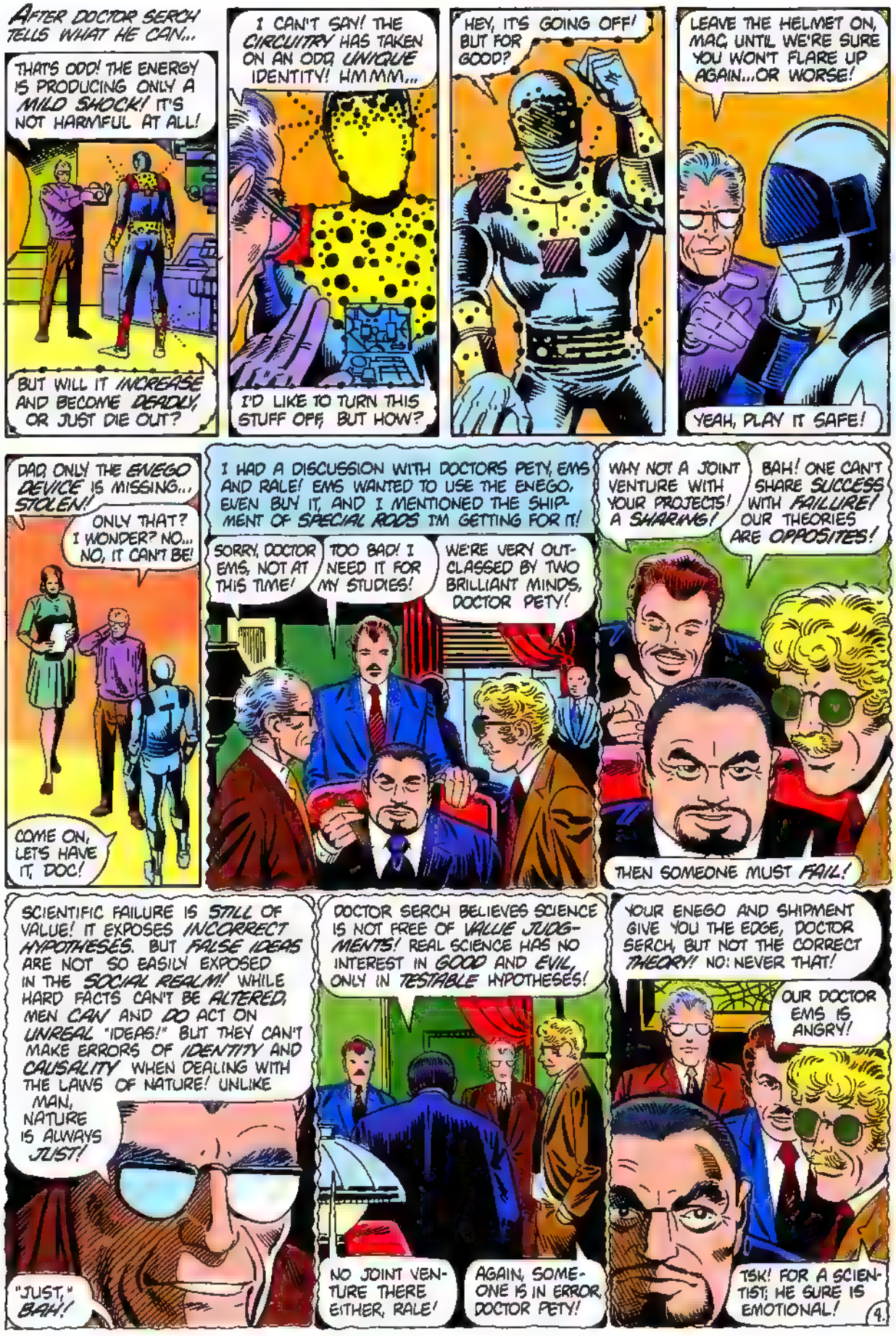
THE BEGINNING...

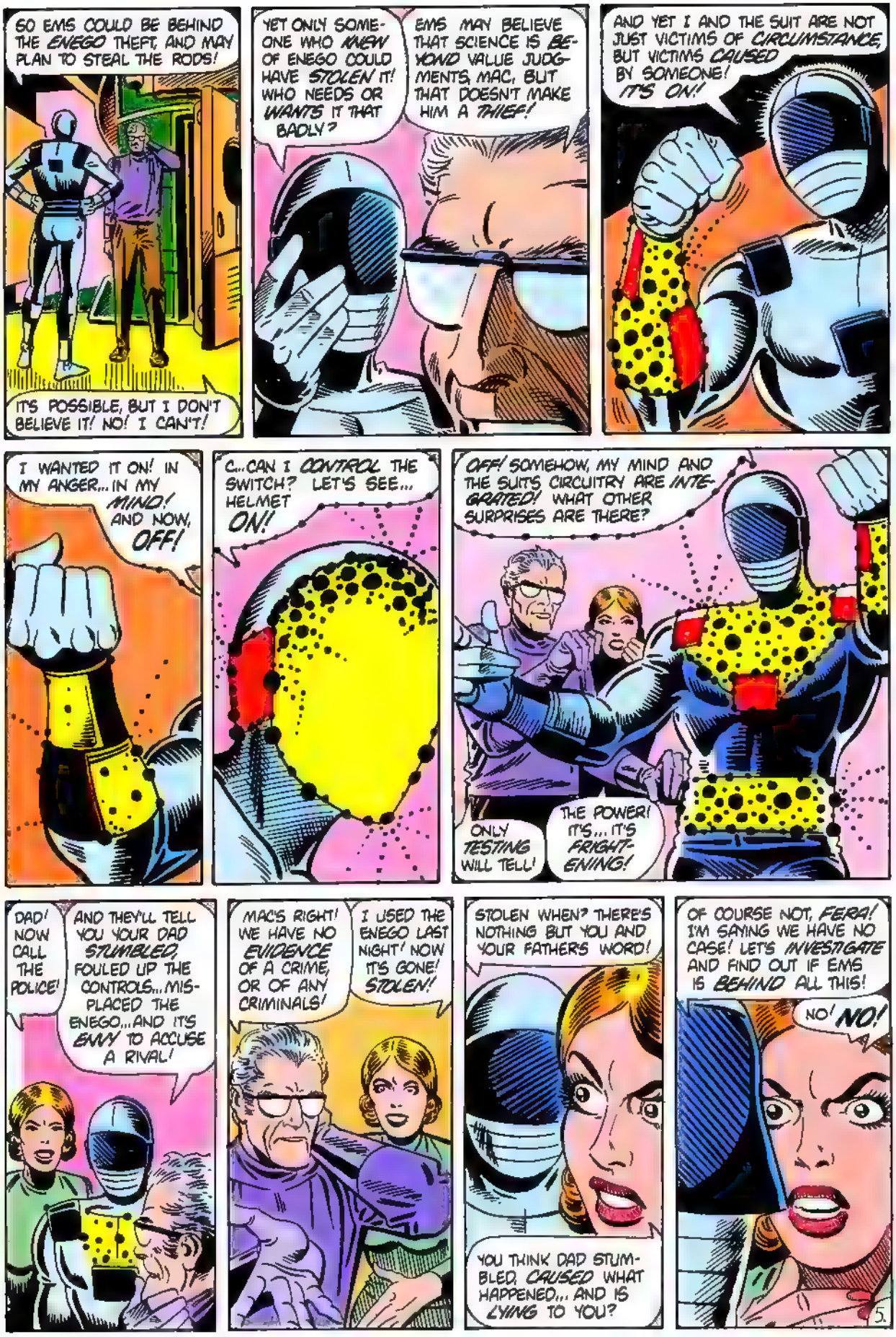
CREATED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN by STEVE DITKO
LETTERED BY KEN BRUZENAK -:- COLORED BY DENIS McFARLING
EDITED BY DEAN MULLANEY

IN THE QUEST RESEARCH LAB, ED SERCH AND MAC REY, HIS ASSISTANT, PREPARE THE FIRST TEST ON THEIR EXPERIMENTAL SPACE ENVIRONMENTAL SUIT...
THAT FINISHES THE UNIT'S CHECK, MAC. IF THE SUIT WORKS, IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO WITHSTAND EXTREME TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS. I'LL WORK UP TO THE EXTREMES IN STAGES. THE SENSORS SHOULD GIVE ME ADVANCE WARNING OF ANY MALFUNCTION, BUT SIGNAL AT ANY HINT OF SOMETHING WRONG. HOW DOES THE SUIT FEEL?
STRANGE! WITH THE SUIT SET FOR NORMAL TEMPERATURE, I FEEL PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE. I DON'T FEEL ANY ADDED WEIGHT, AND IT DOESN'T RESTRICT MY MOVEMENTS AT ALL!
1.

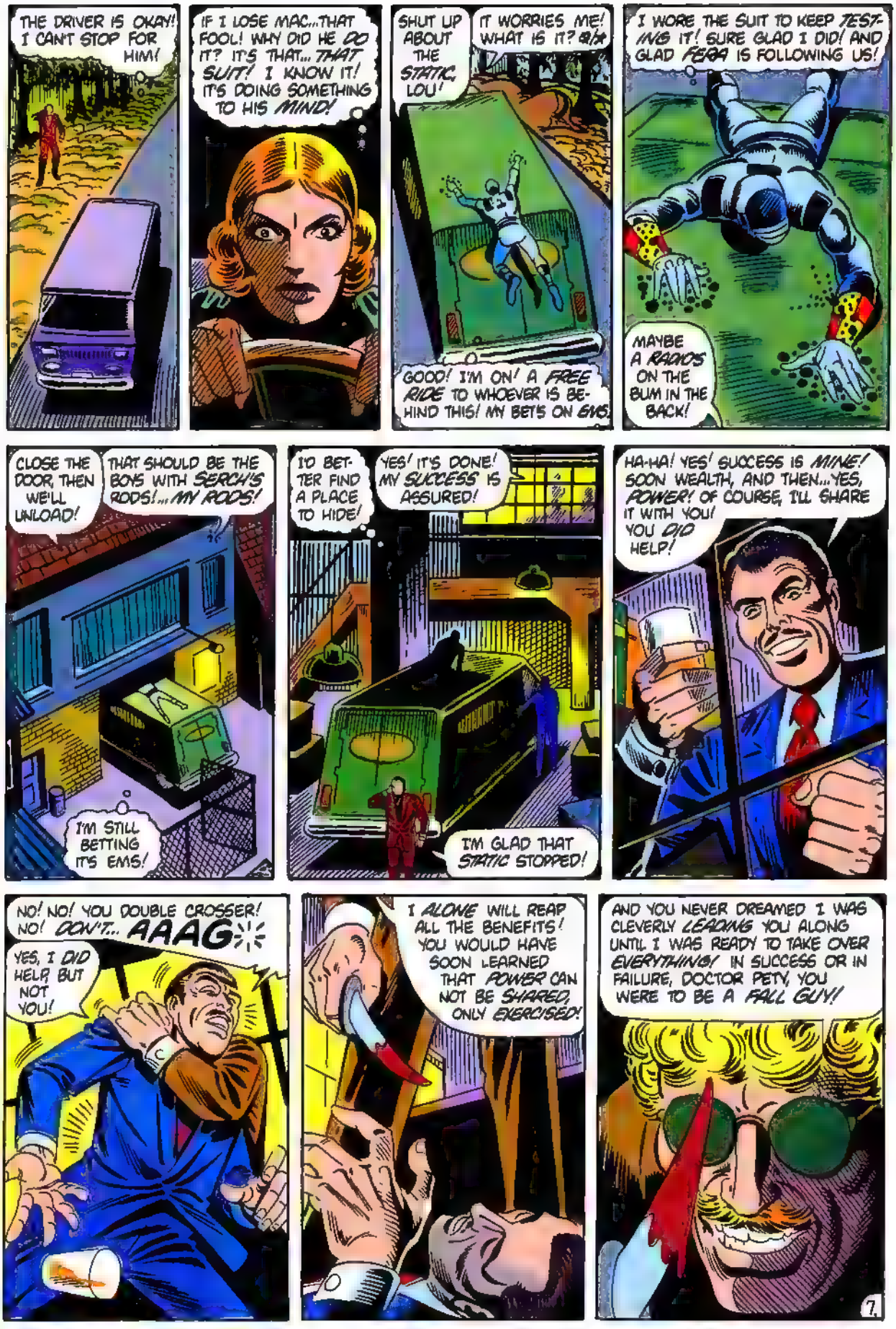
WE'RE IN LUCK, LOU. NO ONE'S AROUND!
NO ONE? I DON'T LIKE IT, ABE!
TOUGH! LETS FIND THAT DEVICE AND BEAT IT!
NOW THAT I LIKE!
WHOA! HOLD IT, LOU! SOME-ONE'S THERE!
I KNEW IT! WE'RE NEVER THAT @/$*! LUCKY!
HE'S NOT LEAVING! SO, WE DO IT THE HARD WAY!
WHY ISN'T IT EVER EASY?
EASY ENOUGH!
OOH!
SOMEONE'S INSIDE!?
NO ONE AROUND, HUH?!
RELAX! I'LL FIX HIM BEFORE HE'S WISE TO US! LIKE THIS--!
HEY!?! WHY IS DOC ENGAGING THE HOT AND COLD UNITS AT ONCE...AND AT FULL POWER!? DOC! DOC SERCH!
THE UNITS ARE BREAKING UP! GASES ESCAPING... THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE... AND..
...I'M CAUGHT! BEING HELD... IN...IN WHAT?
2.

I GOT IT! LET'S GO!
SEE, WE WERE LUCKIER THAN THOSE TWO, LOU!
I'M TRAPPED IN A WEIRD ELECTRICAL ENERGY FIELD! HOW LONG CAN I SURVIVE IN IT? DOC! DOCTOR SERCH!
DAD! WHAT HAPPENED?
FERA... I ... I WAS HIT FROM BE...THE ALARM! MAC!
THE CONTROLS ARE FOULED-UP! CUT ALL POWER! -VENTILATE!
IS...IS...MAC ALIVE?!
OH! FREE OF THAT FIELD'S GRIP!
I...I THINK I'M ALL RIGHT, BUT THE SUIT... THE SUIT, DOC! WHAT IS IT DOING?
I...I DON'T KNOW, MAC!
LOOK OUT! THAT PIECE OF THE HEATING UNIT IS FALLING!
HEY! HOW DID I GET THE POWER TO REACT AND PUSH IT ASIDE?
SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE HAS HAPPENED TO ME OR THE SUIT, OR TO BOTH OF US! BUT WHAT?...AND HOW?
I WISH I KNEW, MAC!
WILL IT BE GOOD OR BAD?
13

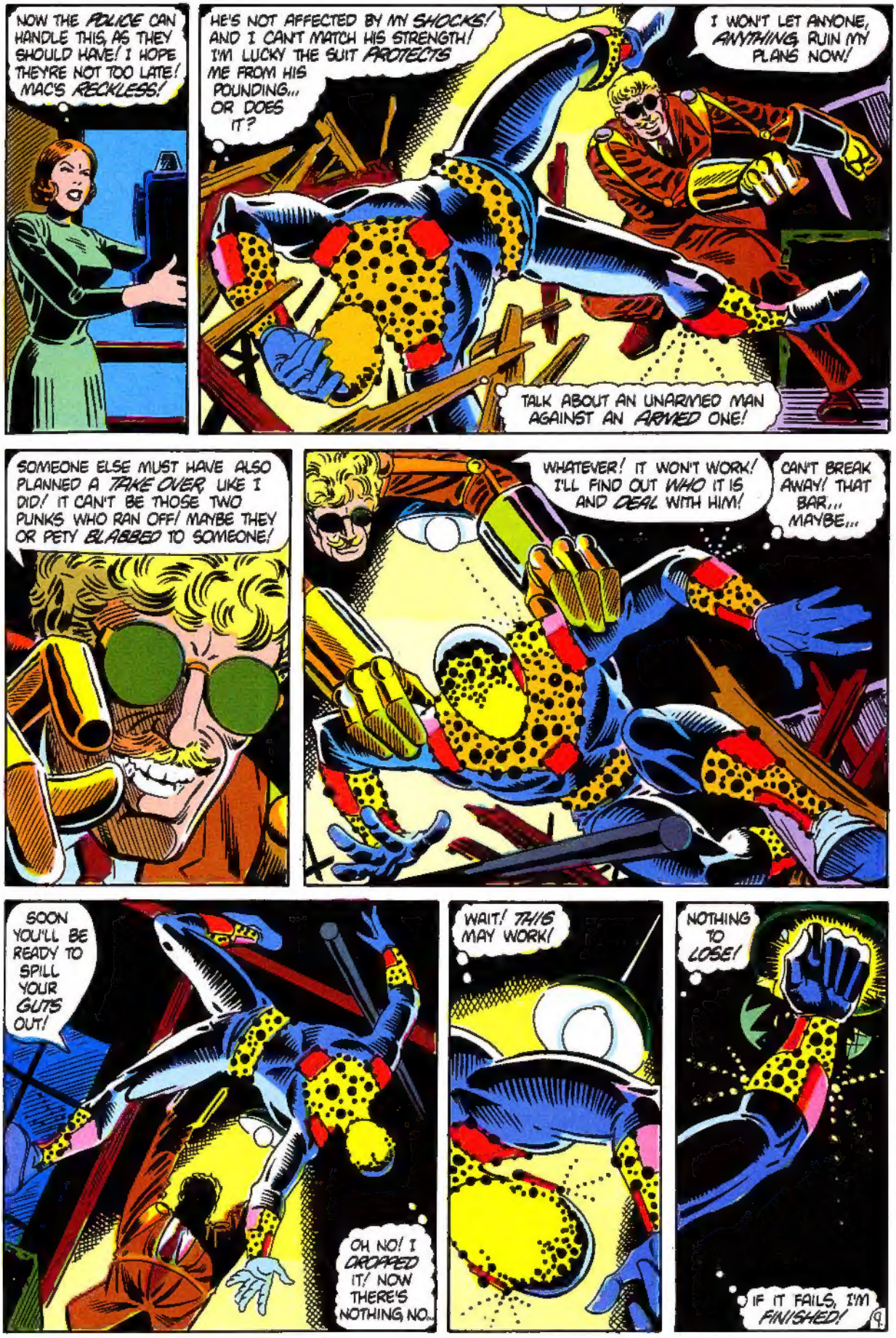

AFTER DOCTOR SERCH TELLS WHAT HE CAN...
THAT'S ODD! THE ENERGY IS PRODUCING ONLY A MILD SHOCK! IT'S NOT HARMFUL AT ALL!
BUT WILL IT INCREASE AND BECOME DEADLY, OR JUST DIE OUT?
I CAN'T SAY! THE CIRCUITRY HAS TAKEN ON AN ODD UNIQUE IDENTITY! HMMM...
I'D LIKE TO TURN THIS STUFF OFF, BUT HOW?
HEY, IT'S GOING OFF! BUT FOR GOOD?
LEAVE THE HELMET ON, MAC, UNTIL WE'RE SURE YOU WON'T FLARE UP AGAIN...OR WORSE!
YEAH, PLAY IT SAFE!
DAD, ONLY THE ENEGO DEVICE IS MISSING... STOLEN!
ONLY THAT? I WONDER? NO... NO, IT CAN'T BE!
COME ON, LET'S HAVE IT, DOC!
I HAD A DISCUSSION WITH DOCTORS PETY, EMS AND RALE! EMS WANTED TO USE THE ENEGO, EVEN BUY IT, AND I MENTIONED THE SHIPMENT OF SPECIAL RODS I'M GETTING FOR IT!
SORRY, DOCTOR EMS, NOT AT THIS TIME!
TOO BAD! I NEED IT FOR MY STUDIES!
WE'RE VERY OUTCLASSED BY TWO BRILLIANT MINDS, DOCTOR PETY!
WHY NOT A JOINT VENTURE WITH YOUR PROJECTS! A SHARING!
BAH! ONE CAN'T SHARE SUCCESS WITH FAILURE! OUR THEORIES ARE OPPOSITES!
THEN SOMEONE MUST FAIL!
SCIENTIFIC FAILURE IS STILL OF VALUE! IT EXPOSES INCORRECT HYPOTHESES. BUT FALSE IDEAS ARE NOT SO EASILY EXPOSED IN THE SOCIAL REALM! WHILE HARD FACTS CAN'T BE ALTERED, MEN CAN AND DO ACT ON UNREAL "IDEAS!" BUT THEY CAN'T MAKE ERRORS OF IDENTITY AND CAUSALITY WHEN DEALING WITH THE LAWS OF NATURE! UNLIKE MAN, NATURE IS ALWAYS JUST!
"JUST," BAH!
DOCTOR SERCH BELIEVES SCIENCE IS NOT FREE OF VALUE JUDGMENTS! REAL SCIENCE HAS NO INTEREST IN GOOD AND EVIL, ONLY IN TESTABLE HYPOTHESES!
NO JOINT VENTURE THERE EITHER, RALE!
AGAIN, SOMEONE IS IN ERROR, DOCTOR PETY!
YOUR ENEGO AND SHIPMENT GIVE YOU THE EDGE, DOCTOR SERCH, BUT NOT THE CORRECT THEORY! NO! NEVER THAT!
OUR DOCTOR EMS IS ANGRY!
TSK! FOR A SCIENTIST, HE SURE IS EMOTIONAL!
4.


SO EMS COULD BE BEHIND THE ENEGO THEFT, AND MAY PLAN TO STEAL THE RODS!
IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NO! I CAN'T!
YET ONLY SOMEONE WHO KNEW OF ENEGO COULD HAVE STOLEN IT! WHO NEEDS OR WANTS IT THAT BADLY?
EMS MAY BELIEVE THAT SCIENCE IS BEYOND VALUE JUDGMENTS, MAC, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A THIEF!
AND YET I AND THE SUIT ARE NOT JUST VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT VICTIMS CAUSED BY SOMEONE! IT'S ON!
I WANTED IT ON! IN MY ANGER... IN MY MIND! AND NOW, OFF!
C...CAN I CONTROL THE SWITCH? LET'S SEE... HELMET ON!
OFF! SOMEHOW, MY MIND AND THE SUIT'S CIRCUITRY ARE INTEGRATED! WHAT OTHER SURPRISES ARE THERE?
ONLY TESTING WILL TELL!
THE POWER! IT'S... IT'S FRIGHTENING!
DAD! NOW CALL THE POLICE!
AND THEY'LL TELL YOU YOUR DAD STUMBLED, FOULED UP THE CONTROLS... MISPLACED THE ENEGO... AND IT'S ENVY TO ACCUSE A RIVAL!
MAC'S RIGHT! WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF A CRIME, OR OF ANY CRIMINALS!
I USED THE ENEGO LAST NIGHT! NOW IT'S GONE! STOLEN!
STOLEN WHEN? THERE'S NOTHING BUT YOU AND YOUR FATHER'S WORD!
YOU THINK DAD STUMBLED, CAUSED WHAT HAPPENED... AND IS LYING TO YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, FERA! I'M SAYING WE HAVE NO CASE! LET'S INVESTIGATE AND FIND OUT IF EMS IS BEHIND ALL THIS!
NO! NO!

IT'S STUPID AND WRONG! CALL THE POLICE...OR FORGET EVERYTHING!
SHOULD WE LOSE THE ENEGO AND LET THE GUILTY GO FREE?
SHOULD WE MAKE PUBLIC THE SUIT... OR DO WE LIE?
N...NO, NOT PUBLIC!
SO WE HAVE A DILEMMA: NO POLICE. NO REWARDING THE GUILTY!
THERE MAY BE A WAY TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS!
NO, DAD! YOU CAN'T GO ALONG WITH MAC!
TO WHAT AM I TO SAY YES OR NO?
MAC TELLS OF HIS PLAN...
IF I'M WRONG, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN--NOTHING! IF I'M RIGHT, WE'LL CALL THE POLICE! BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY! THE SHIPMENT IS ON ITS WAY!
HMM!
DAD!
FERA, WHEN I SPOT THE SHIPMENT, WE'LL JUST FOLLOW IT...HOPEFULLY, TO OUR LAB!
YOU SHOULD'VE BROUGHT CLOTHES...CHANGED OUT OF THAT SUIT!
THERE WAS NO TIME. LOOK! IT'S STOPPED! TURN AROUND UP AHEAD.
BLAST IT! SHE WOULDN'T TURN! THAT'S WHY SHE INSISTED ON COMING AND DRIVING! AHHH! THEY'RE DRIVING OFF!
AM I TOO LATE? IF I CAN JUST GET A HOLD...
I WON'T MAKE IT! BUT I'VE GOT TO!
HEY! I THOUGHT OF CATCHING ON AND I...I GOT AN ENERGY LINE!
BUT WHAT ELSE GOES WITH IT?
A MAGNETIC LINK! I'M HOOKED ON! I JUST HOPE IT HOLDS AND I'M NOT THROWN OFF!
YEAH, I HEAR STATIC! SO WHAT? RELAX! WE'RE IN THE CLEAR! IT WAS EASY, LOU!
YAH, EASY! LIKE NO ONE WAS AROUND IN THAT LAB? BELIEVE ME, ABE, IT'S NEVER EASY!
6


THE DRIVER IS OKAY! I CAN'T STOP FOR HIM!
IF I LOSE MAC...THAT FOOL! WHY DID HE DO IT? IT'S THAT... THAT SUIT! I KNOW IT! IT'S DOING SOMETHING TO HIS MIND!
SHUT UP ABOUT THE STATIC, LOU!
IT WORRIES ME! WHAT IS IT? @/*
GOOD! I'M ON! A FREE RIDE TO WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS! MY BET'S ON EMS!
I WORE THE SUIT TO KEEP TESTING IT! SURE GLAD I DID! AND GLAD FEGA IS FOLLOWING US!
MAYBE A RADIO'S ON THE BUM IN THE BACK!
CLOSE THE DOOR, THEN WE'LL UNLOAD!
THAT SHOULD BE THE BOYS WITH SERCH'S RODS!... MY RODS!
I'M STILL BETTING IT'S EMS!
I'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO HIDE!
YES! IT'S DONE! MY SUCCESS IS ASSURED!
I'M GLAD THAT STATIC STOPPED!
HA-HA! YES! SUCCESS IS MINE! SOON WEALTH, AND THEN...YES, POWER! OF COURSE, I'LL SHARE IT WITH YOU! YOU DID HELP!
NO! NO! YOU DOUBLE CROSSER! NO! DON'T... AAAG
YES, I DID HELP, BUT NOT YOU!
I ALONE WILL REAP ALL THE BENEFITS! YOU WOULD HAVE SOON LEARNED THAT POWER CAN NOT BE SHARED, ONLY EXERCISED!
AND YOU NEVER DREAMED I WAS CLEVERLY LEADING YOU ALONG UNTIL I WAS READY TO TAKE OVER EVERYTHING! IN SUCCESS OR IN FAILURE, DOCTOR PETY, YOU WERE TO BE A FALL GUY!

PUT ON THE LIGHTS! HEY, A SNOOP! LET'S GET HIM!
I'D BETTER GIVE THEM THE FULL EFFECT... IF I CAN!
THIS COULD FOUL UP LEARNING WHO THE LEADER IS!
HEY!
THAT CRAZY STATIC?!
IT'S HIM!
I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO BEAT THEM...
BUT I'VE GOT A GREAT DISARMER! EVEN IF IT'S NOT TOO SHOCKING, IT'S SURPRISING!
WHAT ELSE CAN THE SUIT DO TO HELP ME? I GUESS I'LL TEST IT!
ABE! SHOOT HIM!
WHOA! I DON'T WANT TO TEST THE SUIT AGAINST ANY BULLET!
RALE?! NOT EMS?
AH! WHEN MY PROJECT IS COMPLETE WITH THE AID OF ENEGO AND THE RODS, I'LL OUTFIT AN ARMY WITH SUPERIOR VERSIONS OF THESE POWER ARMS! I'LL MAKE BETTER USE OF THEM THAN THE ORIGINAL INVENTOR!


NOW THE POLICE CAN HANDLE THIS, AS THEY SHOULD HAVE! I HOPE THEY'RE NOT TOO LATE! MAC'S RECKLESS!
HE'S NOT AFFECTED BY MY SHOCKS! AND I CAN'T MATCH HIS STRENGTH! I'M LUCKY THE SUIT PROTECTS ME FROM HIS POUNDING... OR DOES IT?
I WON'T LET ANYONE, ANYTHING, RUIN MY PLANS NOW!
TALK ABOUT AN UNARMED MAN AGAINST AN ARMED ONE!
SOMEONE ELSE MUST HAVE ALSO PLANNED A TAKE OVER, LIKE I DID! IT CAN'T BE THOSE TWO PUNKS WHO RAN OFF! MAYBE THEY OR PETY BLABBED TO SOMEONE!
WHATEVER! IT WON'T WORK! I'LL FIND OUT WHO IT IS AND DEAL WITH HIM!
CAN'T BREAK AWAY! THAT BAR... MAYBE...
SOON YOU'LL BE READY TO SPILL YOUR GUTS OUT!
OH NO! I DROPPED IT! NOW THERE'S NOTHING, NO...
WAIT! THIS MAY WORK!
NOTHING TO LOSE!
IF IT FAILS, I'M FINISHED!
9

AAAGGHH!
THAT MAY HAVE DONE THE TRICK!
WHEW! I'LL SAY!... WHAT'S THAT-- A POLICE SIREN? I'M NOT FINISHED YET!
I HOPE MAC'S STILL ALIVE, AND THAT HE GOT THE LESSON HE NEEDS!
CLOSE! TOO BAD BOTH PETY AND RALE ARE DEAD!
NOW TO SPOT FERA!
THE POLICE WILL PUT A LOT OF PIECES TOGETHER, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BELIEVE ANYONE LIKE ME WAS INVOLVED!
I SHOULD HAVE GONE IN WITH THE POLI--
WON'T FERA BE SHOCKED TO LEARN WHO WAS BEHIND IT!
I GOT THE ENEGO, FERA, AND...
SO COULD HAVE THE POLICE! IF YOU'D HAVE LET THEM! LET'S GO! DAD WILL BE WORRIED!
MAC, PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL NEVER WEAR THAT SUIT ON ANOTHER FOOLISH ADVENTURE!
PROMISE ME, MAC! MAC, DID YOU HEAR? PROMISE ME!
END.
10.

DON McGREGOR
TEAMS WITH
KENT WILLIAMS
FOR AN EXCITING
LOOK INTO
MELISSA
SIREN'S
PAST. A STORY
OF ESCAPE,
DISCOVERY,
AND LOST
VIRGINITY!
A MOST
UNUSUAL
SPECIAL
BACK-UP
STORY
COMING
YOUR
WAY IN
SABRE #7
SHE CAN BE
TOUGH, SHE
CAN BE
TENDER, SHE'S
SEARCHING FOR
MAGIC... AND SHE'S
NOT ABOUT TO LET ANY-
ONE STAND IN HER WAY!
Melissa
Siren
TM

ONE MAN AGAINST THE MOB IS SUICIDE...
THIS WOMAN AGAINST THE MOB IS *MURDER!*

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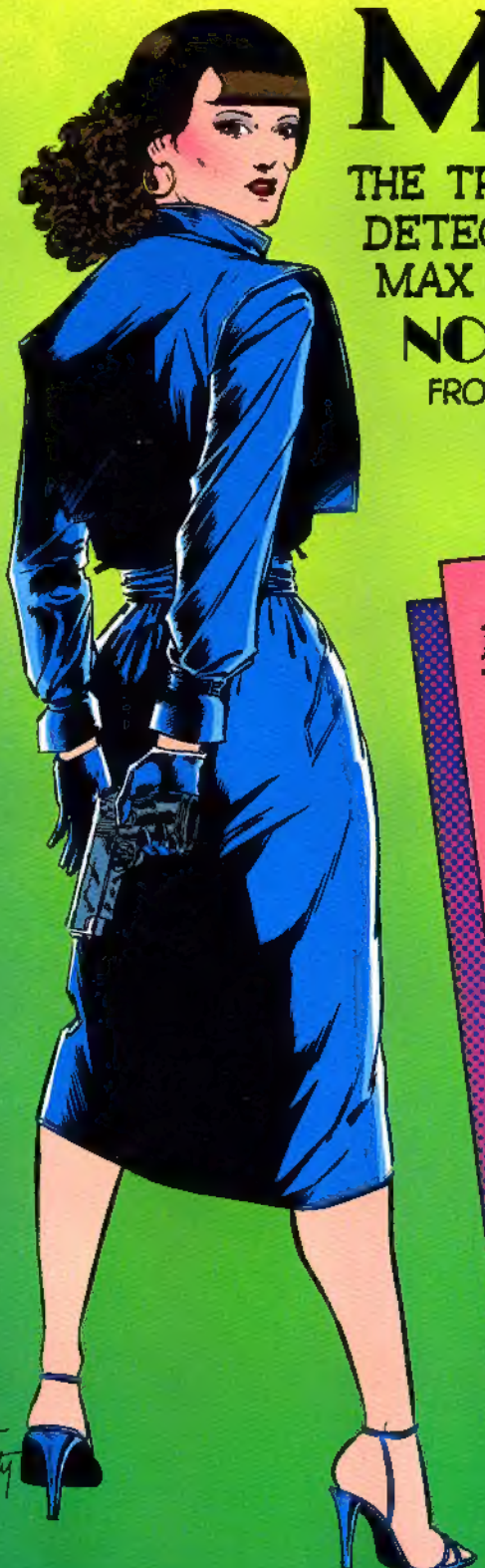

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